

THE GATEWAY

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ECONOMIC DISRUPTION Thousands of Québec students have been demonstrating since 16 March, protesting provincial bursary cuts. LUAM MALONEY/THE UNIVERSITY

Hockey Bears hope to fill Rexall

Advance ticket sales slow for this weekend's University Cup

JAKE TROUGHTON
Sports Editor

There are various storylines to watch for as the University Cup gets underway today: can the UQTR Patriotes claim their third championship in five years? How will the Manitoba Bisons fare in their first nationals appearance in 40 years? Can the Moncton Aigles Bleus go from Atlantic basement to CIS penthouse in one year? Or will the Alberta Golden Bears, the top seed for the fifth year in a row, finally translate their favourite status into a championship?

Perhaps the biggest question of all, though, is this: how many people will see all those stories unfolding? And, at this point, the last question seems just as impossible to answer as the others.

"To put things in perspective, for the Edmonton Oilers rookie game [held each September], which is always a sellout, we have 800 tickets pre-sold normally."

**BOB STAUFFER,
SPORTS INFORMATION DIRECTOR,
U OF A ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT**

As of yesterday, only about 5000 tickets had been sold for each of Sunday night's Golden Bears game and Monday's gold-medal game, both at Rexall Place, which is well short of the attendance goal of at least 10 000.

Nonetheless, the U of A's athletics department insists that they expect to pass their sales targets by the time the opening pucks drop for each game.

"To put things in perspective, for the Edmonton Oilers rookie game [held each September], which is always a sellout, we have 800 tickets pre-sold normally," said Bob Stauffer, sports information director for the department.

PLEASE SEE CANADA-US • PAGE 2

Six students arrested as Montréal protests continue

DAVE WEATHERALL
Québec Bureau Chief

MONTREAL (CUP)—Montréal riot police arrested six protesters Tuesday 22 March, after students erected road-blocks barring truckers' access to the city port's two entrances.

The blockade began at around 7:30am and ended about 1pm, when the riot police were called in to disman the demonstration.

Montréal police spokesperson Miguel Alston said protesters began throwing objects at officers.

"Police then moved in and made six arrests," said Alston.

He said he could not confirm whether one of the students arrested

suffered a leg injury during his arrest, as the CBC reported.

Alston said the students who were arrested could face charges ranging from assault, assault with a weapon and illegal assembly.

Coalition de l'association pour une solidarité syndicale étudiante élargie (CASSEE) spokesperson Héroise Moysan-Lapointe said police charged students in the street who were heading to the Assomption metro station.

"The arrests were extremely brutal, and we have to condemn police brutality," she said.

Students from Collège d'enseignement général et professionnels du Vieux-Montréal (CÉGEP)—general and vocational education that directly

follows high school—and CÉGEP de St-Laurent organized the blockade under the umbrella of CASSEE's week of economic disruption to draw attention to the \$103 million cut from Québec's postsecondary bursary program.

Hundreds of students took part in the protest, and Moysan-Lapointe said the arrests would do little to dampen the spirit of the student movement.

"There are more surprise actions planned for this week," she said.

"We're scared of a crackdown, but we will continue to demonstrate."

Moysan-Lapointe said she hoped students participating in the march organized by CASSEE in Québec City on 24 March would not suffer a police backlash because of the day's events.

"We're hoping the Québec government will not use police brutality to try and break up the student movement," she said.

"It will not work—the student movement has ways of making itself heard."

Moysan-Lapointe said her group considered the blockade a success. Their new tactic is to disrupt companies tied to the Québec government.

Trucks couldn't enter Montréal's port for five hours on 22 March.

According to the CBC, Truckers were furious as more than 70 trucks were stuck on Boucherville Street, in Montréal's East end. Truckers criticized the students and said they were losing money because of the blockade.

FOR MORE COVERAGE SEE • PAGE 7

Canada needs to promote itself to Americans, says lecturer

ALEXANDER WITT
News Writer

In a Monday lecture at the University of Alberta, public policy scholar Dr Jack Corbett called for greater appreciation of the differences between Americans and Canadians.

In his lecture, "Baja Canada: The View from the South," the American explained his personal understanding of Canada. Corbett is a professor at Portland State University and a visiting

professor at the University of Alberta via the Fulbright educational exchange program, which aims to build relationships between Canada and the United States.

One of the main problems between the two countries, said Corbett, is that Canadians don't promote the importance of Canada to Americans.

"One thing that's strikingly absent in the US-Canada relationship is a fairly concerted effort on the part of Canadians," said Corbett.

"[You need] to make Americans aware of how significant the Canadian resources and presence [are] in American lives."

**DR JACK CORBETT,
VISITING PROFESSOR TO THE U OF A**

"[You need] to make Americans aware of how significant the Canadian resources and presence [are] in American lives," he said.

"I feel a little uncomfortable saying this, [but] this is where being nice just doesn't cut it."

In his experience, Corbett sees the need for Canadians to educate Americans about Canada, its resources and its intrinsic value to the North American relationship.

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Literally literary

The Gateway's annual literary contest is back after a year's hiatus. See the winning entries inside.

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A-L-C-B spells 'fresh'

There's a new mockumentary out featuring Edmonton's favourite suburban rap act. Read on in A&E.

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colophon

The Gateway is created using Macintosh computers, Union Powerlock 1000 flatbed scanner, and a Nikon Super Cool Scan optical film scanner. Adobe InDesign is used for layout. Adobe Illustrator is used for vector images, while Adobe Photoshop is used for raster images. Adobe Acrobat is used to create PDF files which are burned directly to plates to be mounted on the printing press. Text is set in a variety of sizes, styles, and weights of **Futura**, **Kayla**, **Joanna**, and **Arima**. The Masthead is the Gateway's sister page. The Gateway's games of choice are The Legend of Zelda: The Minish Cap and O&A.

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US security-state is hurting Canada-US relationship: lecturer

CANADA-US • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Americans tend to drift through the [Canada-US] relationship, learning bits and pieces, but rarely putting it together," said Corbett.

"This is why I think it's important that Canadians assemble this in ways that Americans can understand, making sure that Americans have a better grasp of that, because we have come to the point where [Canadians] are taken for granted," Corbett argued.

But Corbett also warned against complacency on the part of Canadians in assuming that the country understands its southern neighbours.

"It's striking that the very proliferation of American media, American products, and American firms operating in Canada means that many Canadians say, 'Well, we understand

the United States, we understand the nature of the relationship,'" he said.

Growing up in 1950s New Jersey, without any exposure to anything Canadian, Corbett once saw the country as exotic and foreign.

"We knew it was a country that laid to the north, and was filled with hockey-playing, French-speaking Eskimos, and that it was a very, very strange and exotic place," he said.

However, through his travels to Canada and after meeting many Canadians, Corbett says he's developed a vision of North America.

"Little by little I found myself becoming what, in retrospect, I would describe as a 'continentalist,'" he said.

Over the years, Corbett came to understand that the three prominent North American countries—Canada,

the US and Mexico—are inevitably entwined.

"There seemed to be an accumulation of experience pushing Canada, Mexico and the United States in the direction of closer interaction," Corbett said.

"Some of that was clearly constructed, and NAFTA would be a good example. But in other cases, it simply seemed to be the gradual expansion of a host of individual interactions."

However, Corbett feels that reactions to 11 September, 2001 have changed all of that.

"The drift towards continentalism has been sharply challenged by the rise of the American security-state," he argued.

Now styling himself as a "recovering continentalist," Corbett envisions a

different future. "The future of North America may be... that good fences make good neighbours," he said.

The fact that American security interests aren't shared by Canada and Mexico has caused a shift in North American relations, Corbett argued. In his view, the relationship between the three countries can now be defined by two bilateral relationships: that of Canada and the US, and of Mexico and the US.

Ultimately, he cautioned that this scenario could lead to hostility for the North American continent.

"I would make the argument that if Canadians and Mexicans don't collectively insist on a true trilateral vision, what is likely to emerge will be two sets of bilateral relationships that are intended to be manipulative."

COUNCIL FORUM

Compiled by Ross Prusakowski

Students' Council meets every second Tuesday in the Council Chambers in University Hall at 6pm. Council meetings are open to all students. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 29 March.

COUNCIL DECIDES ON DEDICATED FEES

On the eve of council elections, and with guests aplenty in Council Cham-

bers, Students' Council considered the dedicated fee units (DFU)—funds collected by the Students' Union and earmarked for specific organizations like CJSR campus radio and the Alberta Public Interest Research Group (APIRG)—and their future relationship with the SU.

The DFU sub-committee brought forward the majority of the proposals, but a provision requiring every DFU to submit to a compulsory renewal referendum provoked debate between councilors as representatives from APIRG, the Gateway Student Journalism Society and the Physical Education and Recreation Enhancement Fund looked on.

Law Councilor Tara Thompson, who also was a member of the committee, supported the referendum requirement.

"The best way to protect DFUs is to put them to referendum every ten years so they won't be subject to councilors who mobilize their political capital to persecute a single fee. I support referenda not so a fee's reason for existence can be challenged, but so students can see every ten years that DFUs are spending students' money well."

Science Councilor Chris Samuel, who served with Thompson on the DFU committee, disagreed with her reasoning and the objective of renewal

referenda.

"I think a continual cycle of renewal referenda breeds a culture of rubber stamping among students and waters down the importance of referenda when they appear on the ballot. Renewal campaigns should have a chance at succeeding and eliminating a fee, otherwise they don't have a real purpose or mean anything to students."

The debate over the issue was passionate from both sides, but councilors voted 14-8 to strike the requirement for DFUs to undergo the renewal referendum. After striking down the contentious section, the bill passed without trouble.

STREETEERS

It's time to start thinking about making that summer money.

Do you have a job for the summer yet?



Jeremy Wiebe
Education II



Jon Clark
Education II



Anna Mzyk
Arts I



Keely McBride
Anthropology/
Biology IV

I don't have a summer job. I'll probably go to my hometown and get a construction job.

I have a job at a sawmill. I work there every summer.

No, I don't have a job, but I am looking for one because everybody needs money for the summer. I think it's hard to find a job at this point, because it's so late in the game already.

I have two: I work at an office and I teach swimming lessons.

Compiled and photographed by Chloé Fedio and James Storrie

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stop in for a while

U of A student concerned with Canadian production of asbestos

A news feature examining Canada's role in the asbestos market

CHLOÉ FÉDIO
News Writer

In the early 1980s, public fear of asbestos was common, associated with its use in construction. But more than 20 years later, Canada is still producing and exporting the mineral fibre to developing nations and acting as a world leader in promoting its safe use.

Kyla Sentes, a graduate student in political science and public-health sciences, and an instructor at the U of A, is an anti-asbestos activist who has been lobbying the Canadian government for a national ban. Her father, Ray Sentes, was exposed to the fibre when he worked as an asbestos insulator in the 1960s, and he lost a 25-year battle to asbestosis—scarring of the lungs—in 2000.

"The little fibres act like needles. They lodge to your lungs. It creates scar tissue on top of scar tissue. Your lungs just solidify to rock and you essentially suffocate," said Sentes.

Asbestos is a Greek word that means indestructible; it's a strong mineral fibre that was widely used as a reinforcing agent, an insulator and a fire retardant prior to the discovery of its harmful health effects.

Nasrin Dhanani, an occupational hygienist and a U of A chemical safety officer, says that any building on campus constructed before 1980 may contain asbestos, but that it's not a health risk to students or faculty members.

"Asbestos, if in good condition and intact, doesn't need to be disturbed and it can stay in place. But if it's disturbed or damaged there is a potential for asbestos fibres to become airborne and then those fibres can become a hazard if they are inhaled," Dhanani said.

However, Sentes is not convinced that the presence of asbestos in University buildings is safe, because the fibres can become airborne without knowledge or detection.

The problem with assurance of detection is that we're talking about fibres that are smaller than [the thickness of] your fingernails: you can't see them," Sentes said.

Despite possible dangers, Dhanani says the U of A is following regulations and that the removal of asbestos is carried out where necessary.

But given the risks associated with asbestos exposure, the regulations are not strict enough, in Sentes' view.

"The whole thing about, 'As long as you don't disturb it, it's fine,' is pretty much a fallacy, not true. There are mountains of scientific evidence to prove that," Sentes said.

In Québec, the mining of chrysotile asbestos provides jobs to 1500 workers. A recent study, *The Epidemiology of Asbestos-related Diseases in Québec*, showed a statistically significant increase in the incidence of mesothelioma—a cancer associated with asbestos exposure—in asbestos miners. Additionally, general populations in these mining towns showed an increase in mesothelioma, suggesting a possible impact from environmental exposure to asbestos.

"Essentially they have been handed death sentences working in this kind of condition. The federal government and the Québec government have a responsibility to have moved these people, to have retrained these



DEBATING ASBESTOS Nasrin Dhanani maintains it's not always a health risk.

people and provided them with safe jobs," said Sentes.

The Chrysotile Institute, a non-profit organization dedicated to promotion of the safe use of chrysotile asbestos in Canada and throughout the world, receives funding from the federal government and reflects Canada's resistance to dismantle the mining industry in Québec.

Now, chrysotile asbestos or "white" asbestos—most commonly found in buildings—is the only type produced in and exported from Canada.

Daniel Dezaïnde, press secretary for Canada Economic Development, said this fibre is encapsulated in a dense and non-brittle material, unlike the old low-density insulation materials that crumbled under hand pressure, causing the dust to become airborne.

"There's something tricky with the name asbestos because generally people mix up the names. For the federal government, [the concern is] in the safe use of chrysotile. One of the major tasks is how to use it in a safe way and that is one of the mandates of the Chrysotile Institute," said Dezaïnde.

The institute, established in 1984 under the name Asbestos Institute, was recently renamed because of the stigma attached to the word asbestos, according to Dezaïnde.

In 2003, the Canadian government committed \$775 000 over a three-year period to the Montréal-based organization, with funds provided by Natural Resources Canada and Canada Economic Development.

The Canadian government maintains its support for chrysotile despite bans throughout the industrialized world. Asbestos was banned throughout the entire European Union in January, and has been banned in Argentina, Australia, Chile, Croatia and Saudi Arabia.

Dezaïnde says that chrysotile is not a hazard if used in a proper manner, and that there isn't sufficient evidence currently to prove otherwise. If there was evidence, he said, the government would respond accordingly.

Currently, Canada dominates the world trade of chrysotile with an annual export of about 300 000 tons, approximately 95 per cent of the total national production. This is a reality that perpetuates Canada's support for the industry, Sentes said.

"The biggest problem is that the Canadian government puts forward this idea of safe use and responsible use," said Sentes.

"Well, it hasn't worked here. We have thousands of people every year dying from asbestos," Sentes said.

She noted that over 70 per cent of the world's asbestos is used in developing parts of the world that are unaware of the substances health effects, including Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America.

Canada, the second-largest producer of asbestos after Russia, is trying to mend asbestos' negative reputation and increase its use in the world. With bans across Europe and other industrialized countries, the only markets left are areas of few resources and technology development.

"Here in Canada, we're supposed to have the best regulations, the best technology in the world, so if we can't do it here, how can we expect countries in Southeast Asia, in Latin America to be doing it when they have virtually no regulations, no technology and most of the people working with it aren't aware of what the hazards are?" said Sentes.

In 2000, Canada took France to the World Trade Organization (WTO) over the 1997 banning of asbestos, claiming it was an unfair economic sanction, but the WTO ruled in favour of France and allowed the ban.

"When the WTO comes out and says, 'Look, asbestos is bad,' you know something has got to be really, really wrong with it for them not to side with business," said Sentes.

"We're supposed to be a humanitarian country. We have this wonderful reputation, but in terms of occupational health and safety, we suck."

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Water experts, concerned citizens gather at U of A for water symposium

KAILA SIMONEAU
News Writer

Members of environmental and human-rights communities gathered at the University this past weekend to attend a symposium on the growing global water crisis.

Entitled "An Earth out of Water," the symposium was hosted by the University of Alberta's Parkland Institute and the Edmonton-based group Change for Children. The two-day event featured a variety of presentations from several leaders in the fight for the protection of water sources in Canada and the right to clean drinking water throughout the world. The speakers came from groups such as Engineers without Borders, the Parkland Institute, and the Onoway River Valley Conservation Association.

The symposium was held in conjunction with World Water Day, which was on 22 March and also marked the launching of the United Nations second Decade of Water. This new Decade of Water, like its predecessor launched in the 1980s, aims at halving the number of people who do not have access to safe drinking water by the year 2015.

"... I am really sick of university presidents, or university deans, who are trading off environmental concerns for a new building."

JIM BYRNE,
PROFESSOR,
UNIVERSITY OF LETHBRIDGE

As Parkland Institute research director Diana Gibson explained during her presentation, 40 per cent of the world's population suffers from water shortages, and 100 000 people die each day from water-borne diseases.

Gibson stated that the idea of wealth acquisition for its own sake will be the



WORLD WATER CRISIS? Andrea Roach presenting at the water symposium.

main obstacle to the UN's new plan.

"We can achieve these goals, but we're going to need to reform our lives and the economy," she said.

According to Gibson, the western market is leading to a two-tier water system and has forced many developing nations, unable to afford a public system, to become reliant upon the private system.

These people, she explained, have no currency to buy their own water. She argued that the alternative is the acknowledgment of water as a basic human right.

"We have to stop putting a price on water," said Gibson.

However, the main focus of the event was local, as a variety of discussions focused on industry, especially the oil industry, and its damaging impact on Alberta's waterways.

According to presenter Jim Byrne, professor at the University of Lethbridge and co-producer of the Access TV series *Water on Fire*, oil-sand production in Northern Alberta requires six to ten barrels of water, drawn from both surface and ground sources, for every barrel of oil produced. This results in major damage to both aquatic and terrestrial environments.

While many participants blame Albertan politicians and their administrations for not protecting waterways from industrial activity, Byrne harks

other groups accountable for their role in the encouragement of the oil industry and the destruction of Alberta's environment.

In Byrne's mind, one of the guiltiest of all groups is the academic community, which has become increasingly involved with the industry in exchange for corporate sponsorship and funding.

"There is a push to get academics working on industry-related projects; they have taken them out of what they are there for," said Byrne.

"If you really look at the details of my tenure, I should be able to say 'Ralph, you are wrong.' But very few academics are willing to do that, because they are trading off; they're trading off values. I am really sick of university presidents, or university deans, who are trading off environmental concerns for a new building."

To Byrne, the solution to the problem lies in the public's ability to recognize this "silent lie" and then make some noise about it. And, he said, symposiums like the one hosted this past weekend allow for opportunity to do just that.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world," he said, quoting American anthropologist Margaret Mead.

"Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

WORLD WATER FACTS

- Although water is one of the most abundant substances on the planet, only 2.53 per cent of it is available as freshwater; the majority of which is locked in glaciers and permanent snow cover.
- Every day, two million tons of waste, including industrial, agricultural and human waste, are disposed into freshwater sources. It takes only one litre of waste to pollute eight litres of the Earth's water.
- 50 per cent of the population in developing nations is exposed to polluted water sources.

- Today, an estimated 12 000 km³ of the Earth's water is polluted.
- On average, a child dies every eight seconds from water-borne illnesses.
- By 2050, seven billion people in 60 nations, at worst, could suffer from water scarcity; at best, two billion people in 48 nations.
- Recent estimates predict that climate change will increase water scarcity by 20 per cent.

From the UN homepage
www.un.org/esa/sustdev/ssdissues/water/WWOR-english-1295566.pdf

Correction!

In volume XCIV, issue 41 of the Gateway, published on 22 March, 2005, the article "National debate tournament at U of A survives jetsko collapse" erroneously reported Sharon Ohayon as the President of the U of A Debate Society. In fact, she is the lead national tournament director and the chair of the Nationals Organizing Committee.

Additionally the spelling of the tournament's winners' names were incorrect. The proper spelling is Rahool Agarwal and Michael Kotly. The Gateway apologizes for these errors and any grief they may have caused.

&

2005

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Anarchists organize third annual community book fair

LENORE TURNER
News Writer

For many political-theory and social-justice enthusiasts, this weekend's third annual Anarchist Book Fair will be a feast of information and opportunities.

A gathering of environmental, public interest, labour and non-profit groups from across Canada, it will provide the public with hard-to-find media, literature, and workshops at no cost, from Friday, 25 March until Sunday, 27 March at Queen Alexandra Hall.

"Anarchists tend to be people of fairly wide interests," said Sean Boomer, one of the organizers and a member of the Alberta Public Interest Research Group (APIRG), a University of Alberta student-supported organization. He noted that since the fair's 2002 inception, the current-events books and how-to workshops on applying anarchist principles to everyday life—including applying anarchism to childcare and gardening—tend to be most popular.

But the fair isn't limited to dedicated anarchists alone. Michael Kalmanovitch, a book-fair participant and the owner of Earth's General Store on Whyte Avenue, noted that an educated blending of ideologies can be healthy.

"A person doesn't have to abandon their whole conservative attitude, but they should explore different forms of societal structure, and look at ways they can incorporate them into their own lives," said Kalmanovitch.

"A lot of people sit around coffee tables and solve the world's problems. This fair is a place for people in

general to channel their energy and questions to make a difference in the world."

Boomer explained that anarchists oppose what they see as illegitimate forms of authority and social hierarchies, particularly government. Instead of government institutions, they see non-institutionalized community building as the way to achieve self-responsibility and self-determination.

Boomer also maintained that capitalism is the cause of the West's current addiction to over-consumption.

"People just don't think about where their goods came from or under what working conditions; there's a lot of disconnection," he said.

This idea is the focus *Mardi Gras: Made in China*, a documentary premiering in Edmonton this Friday. The film follows the production and distribution of beads, from the poor conditions endured by the workers who make the beads, to the eventual use of the glass beads at Mardi Gras.

Other events at the fair include talks by prominent anarchist art professor Dr. Allan Antliff and labour activist Eugene Pawliuk, as well as workshops on anarchism and spirituality, anarchism and unions, and anarchism and feminism.

"One of the things that surprises people is that anarchists tend to be pretty ordinary people who generally live pretty ordinary lives," Boomer said.

"And while a common misconception is that anarchists endorse violence, in fact many anarchists are pacifists. Anarchists are people that have strong views about human freedom and justice."

Global warming spoiling unpopulated arctic, says study

Researchers concerned about highly sensitive Northern ecological balance

IRIS TSE
News Writer

New research by a group of Arctic scientists shows that global warming has far-reaching consequences for the unpopulated regions in the Arctic Circle.

The study was conducted by Canadian scientists, including Dr. Alexander Wolfe from the University of Alberta as well as researchers from Norway, the United Kingdom, Finland and Russia. Their findings, to be published in the upcoming issue of the *Proceedings of the Academy of Science of the United States of America*, suggest that global warming has been causing striking and unprecedented ecological changes within the area around the Arctic Circle since the middle of the 19th century.

"[Our data] shows that the entire 20th century and the last half of the 19th century are biologically unique, and the simplest explanation is that it's a response to the warmer temperatures," said Wolfe, an earth sciences professor from the U of A who co-lead the project with Dr. John Smol of Queen's University.

The team explored the conditions of Arctic lakes in Canada, Northern Europe and Russia, analyzing soil sediment samples collected from the lakes in these locations. From soil samples, the researchers studied diatoms, an aquatic organism in the lowest tier of the food chain, to deduce changes in water quality

and other effects that the changing temperature might have had on the ecological composition in the past century.

The Arctic sites were specifically chosen for their low human population, as well as the negligible amount of locally generated pollution. As a result, the scientists could clearly distinguish the amount of harm caused to the area from the resource use of people.

"We think of the Arctic as being highly sensitive to climate changes," said Wolfe.

Wolfe explained that the ice- and snow-covered surface of the Arctic is usually reflective, meaning solar radiation will bounce off it without causing a spike in temperature. However, due to global warming and the decrease of ice-covered surfaces, those reflective areas now absorb and trap the heat. Because of this, warming in the arctic region is more prominent than anywhere else on the planet.

"I think it's useful for people to know that the most remote regions in the northern hemisphere aren't ecologically static. They're changing very rapidly," said Wolfe.

Neal Michelutti, a postdoctoral candidate at the U of A and an author of the paper, echoed this sentiment.

"Even in the far reaches of the planet, ecosystems that are considered pristine [are] not. Human activities have resulted in these widespread ecological changes in biological commu-

nities where there's very little [local] human contact or activity."

Wolfe stressed that the findings should be seen as a serious warning to people worldwide.

"We're entering a [scenario] that doesn't have any past analogues. They're different than anything that came before under natural environmental conditions. The reason that's scary is because we don't know what it means to the future. There's no way of looking into the past to see what the future may be," explained Wolfe.

"Not only are we getting climate changes, we're also getting biological consequences. We're seeing reorganization of the structure of the ecosystem in the most remote part of the Northern Hemisphere," he said.

Though these findings in the remote regions of the Arctic may seem to have little significance to those of us living in North America, Wolfe stressed that the findings are just as relevant here.

"In addition to climate warming, we have an incredible litany of environmental insults that we project into our backyard on a daily basis. I think this shows that the human footprint on the planet is global. What happens in industrial emissions of greenhouse gases in the middle latitudes certainly has the potency to influence the biology of regions out in the North Pole," said Wolfe.

"And that is one of the take-home messages: none of these issues are localized."



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Student takes Memorial University to Supreme Court of Canada

NADYA BELLA
The Muse

ST JOHN'S (CUP)—Wanda Young, a former student of Memorial University of Newfoundland, has succeeded in taking her case against the University to the highest court in Canada.

On 17 March, the Supreme Court of Canada decided to hear Young's accusations of defamation and loss of income against Memorial, and professors Leslie Bella and William S. Rowe.

Young was investigated for child sexual abuse after she submitted a paper without proper footnotes that contained a first-hand account of a woman sexually assaulting the children she babysat.

According to Young's claim, her professor, Bella, did not attempt to contact Young to explain her paper, and instead sent it directly to Child Protection Services.

Young called the Supreme Court's decision to hear the case a victory for her, but she said the legal case has been an "emotional roller coaster."

"All I did was write a paper, like any other student," said Young.

Memorial spokesperson Peter Morris isn't concerned about the Supreme Court hearing the case.

"We'll trust that the Supreme Court will make wise decisions. Right now, the decision favours the University, and we're pretty confident that will continue to be the case," said Morris.

A Newfoundland and Labrador Supreme Court jury awarded Young \$840 000 in damages and lost wages in October 2003. However, the decision was overturned a year later.



OFF TO OTTAWA Spokesperson Peter Morris defends Memorial's position.

Young was ordered to pay back \$300 000, the portion of the settlement she had already received.

Since then, a collection agency has been looking for the money on behalf of Memorial's insurance agency. Young said although she did receive part of the settlement, most of it went into legal fees and her student loan.

Although the Supreme Court said the University must pay for costs, Young's lawyer has not confirmed whether this

includes legal fees, or simply the cost of the application.

Morris said the University is only responsible for the cost of applying to hear the case, which he said is between \$500 and \$1200.

On 2 April, the television program W5 will air a special program about Young's case.

"The facts of this story haven't come out yet, but in W5 they will," said Young.

Protests mark Iraq anniversary

REKA SZKEKELY
Ontario Bureau Chief

TORONTO (CUP)—Torontonians joined thousands of demonstrators around the world marking the second anniversary of the beginning of the war in Iraq on 19 March.

The Toronto Coalition to Stop the War estimated between 4000 and 5000 attended the anti-war rally, while police would only say there were 1000-plus. Observers put the numbers in at least the 3000 range.

The protest was one of 44 in Canada, and over 900 around the world, according to the anti-war coalition.

Speakers included Afshan Al-Hashimi, a 14-year-old student of Iraqi descent, who was visibly nervous before talking, but delivered her message in a loud and clear voice.

"Another story is added to the Iraqi people's big book of sorrow. It began two years ago on this day, when the Anglo-American governments marched their armies into Iraq with the supposed aim of liberating the Iraqi people," she said.

Despite 100 000 civilian deaths, Al-Hashimi said the people of Iraq have yet to taste freedom.

"Not only do the American forces stomp and kick the pride of the Iraqi people physically, but spiritually as well for where is the democracy in reforming the Iraqi constitution and having western values in a 97 per cent Muslim populated land?" she asked.

Also present was a group of American war resisters, several accompanied by their young children.

Darrell Anderson, a 22-year-old who served seven months with the US army in Iraq, spoke for them.

Anderson said he was reprimanded

for refusing to fire on a car that turned out to be carrying an Iraqi family. Shortly after, he was wounded and received a Purple Heart. When his leave in the States ended, Anderson decided he wouldn't go back to Iraq, and instead headed for Canada.

The former soldier said he joined the army for a chance at a better life and to defend his country. Instead, Anderson said, he found himself in a corrupt and illegal war.

"The truth is, my country sent me to die for money and oil for their own personal gain," he said.

"If I would have followed the army's procedures, I would have killed innocent people, but I refused then and I refuse now."

Anderson, along with the others, is hoping to gain refugee status in Canada. He has received strong support from religious groups and trade unions.

Carolyn Egan, president of the United Steelworkers Toronto Area Council, urged Canadians to pressure the government to grant the requests.

"We believe that they should give [refugee] status to the US deserters, to the young men and women who come up here because they are morally opposed to the war," Egan said.

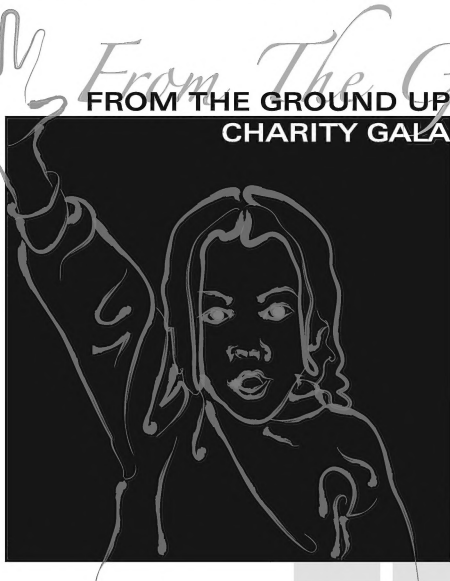
The march wound out of the square, passing the American consulate, which was guarded by Toronto police.

Though some stopped to shout their anger at the consulate.

The student contingent at the rally included members of the University of Toronto's Students for Peace in Iraq and York University's Grassroots Anti-Imperialist Network.

"I think it's such a dirty thing that they are doing in Iraq, and I think they should get the troops out now," said Katherine Lei, a student with the University of Toronto group.

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Massive protest condemns Québec's cuts to financial aid

Tens of thousands of students and supporters march in Montréal

DARREN SHORE
The Link

MONTREAL (CUP)—Tens of thousands of protesters wearing red squares marched through Montréal on 16 March, condemning the Québec government for cutting \$103 million from student bursaries.

Students from most major Québec universities and Collège d'enseignement général et professionnels (CÉGEP)—general and vocational education that directly follows high school—members of the major student federations, numerous professors, and representatives of major unions, organizations and various political parties partook in the demonstration.

"I'm really happy to see how many people are in the street today," said Marie-Eve Lamarre, a language student at CÉGEP de St-Laurent.

"I think [the funding is] really important, because I won't be able to keep studying if we don't do this. I don't think that I can study anymore. My parents can't help me."

The raucous trail of colourful props, costumes and sounds began at Education Minister Jean-Marc Fournier's office, and worked its way to Premier Jean Charest's downtown office.

The bagpipes, brass band and numerous drummers that followed the crowd were sometimes inaudible amidst some 80 000 hollers.

"Students are totally in the red," said Marie-Pierre St-Louis from the Université du Québec à Montréal, pushing her child in a carriage.

"I need the bursary money to study, and to have a good salary and a good job, and to help my family live. I have a one-year-old daughter."

Spectators on the street expressed a considerable amount of support. Some people came outside to applaud, such as employees of the Office de la Langue Française on Sherbrooke Street.

"I think [the funding is] really important because, I won't be able to keep studying if we don't do this. I don't think that I can study anymore. My parents can't help me."

MARIE-EVE LAMARRE,
LANGUAGE STUDENT,
CÉGEP DE ST-LAURENT

"I am absolutely against the cuts," said one woman.

"The more students fear going into debt, the less they will study, so [the cuts] effectively limit access to education."

Many of the students demonstrating were directly affected by the cuts.

"It will probably take me ten years to pay back my debts," said Lauren Stoddard, a Concordia University undergrad.

"The government says people should be able to work and go to school, but that's not realistic. You'll burn out with full-time work along with full-time studies."

Some demonstrators were students from outside Québec who have been



"THE DARK SIDE OF CHAREST" Protesters demonstrating in Montréal.

equally affected.

"I planned on the [bursary] money being there when I decided to come," said Sean Bennell, a Concordia graduate student from Ontario.

"Now I'm definitely feeling the crunch. I'll have to go back home to work over the summer as opposed to staying here and working on my thesis."

Leona Ritchie, a political-science undergrad, came out to show her support.

"I'm on a scholarship but I want to stand in solidarity with the people who are going to be even more indebted because of these cuts."

Near Charest's office, McGill University students placed a big red sofa graffitied with students' demands.

"It symbolizes how McGill students should take a position on the strike, which they didn't do before today," said Laurence Delisle, sitting on the armrest.

Marina Chirchikova added: "It was actually a really great turnout [of McGill students]. I think the strike is gaining more and more credibility" at McGill.

Currently, 40 per cent of Québec students require financial aid, and the average student debt exceeds \$20 000. The Liberal government's cuts will cause Québec student debt to increase by 62 per cent, say student groups.

The cuts are opposed by three-quarters of Quebecers, contributing to the unpopularity of Charest, whose performance thus far has been judged unsatisfactory by over two-thirds of Quebecers, according to recent opinion polls.

"If all the students are angry, there is a problem," said Mathieu Aubien, a

representative of the Parti Québécois's youth wing.

"Mr Charest needs to look at this and learn something."

Despite the public opposition, the Charest government has refused to give in to students' demands, opting instead to replace former education minister Pierre Reid with Fournier. The minister argues Québec students still have the best tuition rates in North America.

"It makes me really angry when there's all these people saying Québec students are being selfish in that we have the lowest tuition rates in North America," said Leah Page, a women's studies student at Concordia.

"We have low tuition rates because we fought for them, and we're going to continue to fight for them, and we should have the right to continue to fight for them."

Fournier has promoted a complicated alternative, in which students would amass debt without bursaries. With this proposal, the poorest 35 per cent of students could receive some debt relief at the end of their postsecondary education.

But the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) says Fournier's proposal does not make his promises clear.

"We're still analyzing it," said CFS provincial chair Tim McSorley. The CFS maintains the proposal is not an improvement.

"They're just proposing to fix the problems the Charest government created in the first place," said McSorley.

"Debt relief after the fact places the burden on students as they go into school. We've always pushed for a system that allows the lowest-income students to get upfront grants."



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No easy answers in school shooting

"I CAME FROM a little place out in the sticks called Red Lake ... Red Lake was a nice little place, the woods were rich and green during the summer, the lakes were beautiful and great for swimming in as well. The main lake, Red Lake, was actually red. Lots of stories behind that one. It was a nice place." — Jeff Weise, aka Blade11

This bit of idyllic prose might not show it, but this little nugget is lifted from a role-playing fan-fiction story called "Chaos: The Second War." The author, and you may have heard of him, is a young man from Red Lake, Minnesota. It's not English 101 syllabus material, but then what can you expect from a 16-year-old kid from a nowhere/village high school? In fact, considering that, and the testimony from several of Weise's classmates that he was a goth, horror-movie-loving kid, zombie fan fiction is precisely what you would expect from him—and not, say, a "Columbine-style" multi-murder/suicide.

But that's precisely what Weise is known for; Monday, Weise shot and killed his grandfather—a sergeant on the local police force—and his grandfather's girlfriend. After swiping some police weaponry from grandpa, he headed to his high school. After ten minutes of gunfire, seven people were wounded and ten were dead—including Weise.

And now, people are trying to make sense of it all, labelling Weise's massacre as another Columbine and grasping at clues to his disturbed motives—it's just that their theories are lacking a certain creative spark.

There's the hunch that Weise's screwy home life was a contributing factor—his father committed suicide a few years back and his mother suffered severe brain trauma from a car accident. Or maybe it was the result of living in a remote drug- and violence-plagued community (Red Lake is one of the poorest reservations in the US and has severe issues with drugs and gang violence).

And of course, considering this tragedy is being touted as the sexy *Columbine 2: The Deadening* in all the papers, let's not forget the telltale signs that could have averted it all: testimony from Weise's classmates that said the trench coat- and army boot-wearing teen "looks like one of those guys at the Littleton school." And, oh yes, he apparently drew a picture of a guitar-wielding skeleton last week. "I thought that was him letting everyone know," said one classmate in the *Ohio Times Reporter*.

Add up all this "evidence" and last week Weise was, by all accounts, a poorly dressed misfit who liked skeletons and guitars. Uh, okay, I guess we could have predicted he'd do it, but really, he just sounds like millions of screwed up kids around the world—screwed up kids who aren't gun-happy morons.

Okay, old argument; Columbine, after all, happened six years ago, and we all heard this stuff back then when our suburban high schools were being outfitted with metal detectors and spy cams. But it is strange that when something like this happens—perfectly mundane, teenaged things become fodder for headlines like "Teen Nazi Nixes Angel of death comments before metal massacre."

Nobody would think that the snippet of Weise's story at the beginning of this article is a warning sign of a psycho wanting to destroy his hometown. Quite the opposite really; it's a boyish shout out to a beloved small town. Hell, Weise could've pitched it as a bit of copy for a "Red Lake Rocks" tourist brochure. But then, underaged maniacs aren't too leary to dig up their communities, from what I understand; their violence comes from being an outsider.

But Weise's supposed love of Red Lake is no more telling of his insanity than his pair of army boots. Considering he's gone—no one or fan fiction left behind outlining his every motive—there's no telling what made him go through with his disgusting crime. There's no doubt that what he did was monstrous, and those affected by his crime understandably can't help but desperately try to understand how they could have prevented the tragedy. But horrible as it was, Weise was just another kid—capable of good as much as of horrific violence—and maybe even more like other kids in his community than we think. We may never understand exactly why he did it, but my money isn't on the guitar skeleton.

LEAH COLLINS
Entertainment Editor



"I will continue to stand on the side of those defending life for all Americans, including those with disabilities."

GEORGE W. BUSH, WASHINGTON POST, MONDAY, 21 MARCH

LETTERS

All four business students wrong

How many business students does it take to write an inept letter? Four. In reply to "Lewis wrong, Gateway 'neo-communist,'" (15 March), I would like to point out some flaws in their logic.

First point, out a free-market capitalist nation in the world today. Maybe you're having trouble, because there is no such thing! The same applies for communism. The world is full of watered-down, hybrid versions of both ideologies that don't really say much for either.

Using North Korea as evidence for your argument is seriously flawed at best. Anything would look better when you compare it to a crazy totalitarian dictator. Just in case you never took geography, let me point out a few countries that you so conveniently overlooked: Cuba is a country that has successfully used capitalism the "finger," and still, despite its many problems, is able to provide for its population no worse than in pre-revolutionary imperial times. For your information, their tourism industry is doing great, despite US embargoes.

As for the World Bank, IMF, and the USA, they don't look out for anyone but themselves. Your reference to "bullshit left-wing fiscal policy" should actually be "bullshit expansionary monetary policy," but if you took Econ 102, you probably would have known that.

Argentina can be classified as a casualty of capitalism. Their problems are primarily a result of the "bullshit international loans" given to them. When the world markets took a nose dive, how else was Argentina supposed to pay their huge interest payments when no one was buying their exports? Printing money was the only option for them. In other words, free-market capitalism came and stabbed them in the back while making a buck off of it.

In closing, a little bit of socialism never hurt anyone. But, for you four business students, next time I see a homeless person, I will be sure to kick them in the head, with compliments from free-market capitalism and the faculty of business. After all, they should know their place in a free-market capitalist society, right?

CYRUS DASTOURI
Arts IV

David Berry a 'bourgeoisie twit' for not liking Idol

I would like to respond to David Berry's article printed in the 22 March Gateway titled, "Idol to millions—of really bad musicians." It appears as though Berry belongs to an ever-growing group of "intellectuals" who, in their misguided opinions, believe that to make good music, no one can know who you are. It's these bourgeoisie twits who worship unknown indie bands, so that only themselves, and others of their ilk, can lay claim to being on the cutting edge of music. With such elitist attitudes, how can Berry even appreciate the way Billy Idol was able to bridge the gaps between popular, rock and punk music in the late-70s and early-80s when he was hardly a twinkle in daddy's eye.

I don't know why Berry doesn't make mention that Billy's first three bands, Chelsea, The Rockettes and Generation X were playing the same clubs that the Clash and the Sex Pistols were playing during the mid to late 1970s. I also hope that Berry knows that even the Sex Pistols, were, in his words, "manufactured music." Their manager, Malcolm McLaren, helped put them together, and create their image.

Although I will concede that Billy Idol's image was airbrushed during the 1980s for MTV, it doesn't eliminate the fact that he opened doors for others to cross over into the mainstream, as well as exposed a new audience to rock and punk music. Just because music is "manufactured," doesn't mean it can't be

good. Billy Idol was a punch in the mouth to the Michael Jacksons, Duran Durans and Cyndi Laupers in the early years of MTV.

People such as David Berry strive to be so ultra-cool and aloof to mainstream music that they are constantly looking for new and obscure bands to claim as their own, and heaven forbid that these bands are discovered by others less intelligent than the "Berry's." In doing so, these music elitists miss out on the good things that have happened over the past 50 years of rock music, and dismiss them as passé and antiquated. Without an appreciation for the old, how can we appreciate, debate and compare the new?

So Berry, enjoy your double-latte espresso in your ivory tower. The rest of us will drink P! in our basement suites and pump our fists to the Idol.

DAVID WILCOX
Edmonton, Alberta

Dewey's servers work hard for their money

I was quite disturbed after reading Nicole Vicker's letter "Blame poor SU has on bad service, bad food," (10 March), especially being one of the members of the Scandinavian Club who frequents Dewey's. I can definitely say that there have been times when the service I have received is less than optimal. But then again, when I've received poor service at the Powerplant (Dewey's).

I like many others, used to spend more time complaining about the bad service to others than talking to the people who actually had the power to fix it. After realizing that my methodology for getting results was inherently flawed, I took another approach.

Anyone who has worked a customer-service job realizes that it is one of the most difficult and least rewarding jobs. Instead of complaining, or not coming back, or not tipping, try this: ask your server how his or her day is going. Mention that she hasn't been to the table in a while

and ask if he or she is busy. After I asked these questions, I discovered two things: first, how incredibly short-staffed the Powerplant and Dewey's are. These people are run off their feet, with customers who cannot appreciate the fact that they're really trying, but just can't keep up, because there should be at least double the staff at any given time. The second thing I discovered is that nearly every employee there is a student: a student who, like you, has five courses, papers and assignments due, and an important exam coming up.

What I gained from this was compassion. I realized that if my server was busy, all I needed to do to get a drink was go to the bar. Now I have gotten to know most of the bartenders too; the waitress is happy because I've made her day a little easier, and the next time I come in, and she's not busy, she apologizes for the previous time I was in, and I get exceptional service.

I agree that the SU has to do something to improve the service and the food, but take some time to talk to your server, and thank them for trying. If you can't talk to your server, try asking for the manager before you publicly slander people in a newspaper. Maybe the reason you're getting poor service is because you are rude, unappreciative, and uncaring. If this is the case, you deserve everything you get.

MONICA ENGSTROM
Grad Studies III

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building, or e-mailed to opinion@gateway.alberta.ca.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous, or otherwise hateful in nature. Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the name, student identification number, program, and year of study of the author; to be considered for publication. Anonymous submissions will not be considered.



TYSON KABAN

BIGGER HURDLES TO JUMP Can you blame poor attendance on bad advertising, or is there a higher power at work?

There's only one explanation for poor protest attendance: God hates the SU

DAVID BERRY



Another day, another fabulously under-attended Students' Union protest. This particular one had something to do with hurdles and student loans, I think, though it could have been about rising obesity rates on campus—I don't know; there were athletic events of some kind. In Quad, I think. Whatever the hell it was, the point is, no one was there. Again.

Now, that in itself is hardly news; really, no one ever goes to these things. If we could somehow convince people to stay away from guns the way they stay the hell away from SU events, peace would probably have a pretty decent chance.

No, what was remarkable about this particular non-event was that it finally confirmed a suspicion that I—and, likely, many of you—have had since I first came to this University: God hates the SU.

Maybe it's because they actually use the second floor of SUB for some sort of Satanist, orgy of sin; maybe it's because Mat Brechtel spent his term diddling the Virgin Mary behind God's back; maybe the SU is the victim of some kind of Job-esque bet made with Beelzebub—I don't know; I'm not a theologian. All I know is that time and time again during my U of A

career, God has been smiting the SU like they were an Assyrian city. Now, you could blame the consistently poor turnout on the fact that the SU has apparently never heard of advertising an event, but that seems a bit naïve. I mean, sure, the promotion for Tuesday's debacle featured about three posters and a press release sent to the Gateway—which is, theoretically at least, the campus' main source of news for SU events—at 4pm the day before the event was to happen, but really, that seems inconsequential.

I mean, honestly, even if you managed to pick up on the telephatic brainwaves the SU favours for advertising, you still weren't going to brave that damned blizzard to run an obstacle course.

Which is exactly my point. This isn't the first time bad weather has felled an SU event: from snowstorms to Orientation rainouts to freak one-day cold snaps, damn near every time the SU plans anything, all hell breaks loose. It's a miracle locusts haven't pillaged the Food Bank, or, at the very least, a tsunami during a march to the Legislature. And there's a reason why inclement weather is filed under "acts of God" in most

insurance policies.

I could point to more things clearly done by the Almighty to teach the SU a lesson—the incessant complaining of Gateway writers, the plague apparently put upon campus bars, Steve Smith—but, frankly, I don't want to. So let's just move on.

Besides, what's more important is finding some way to get God to stop. Sacrifice is always an option, and there are at least five people sitting on the Executive—and one outgoing BOG member—who the SU won't be needing next year who could probably stand to give up a little for the cause. Self-flagellation seemed to work in the medieval ages, and if that doesn't work, there's always a good, old-fashioned inquisition to show God how much you love him.

Failing that, they could always try holding events that aren't retarded—God might just smile on something that isn't as asinine as jumping hurdles to show that, you know, there are a lot of obstacles to being a student.

Whatever they do, though, the solution doesn't involve me in any way, shape or form. I'm just here to point out your problems, not fix them.

GATEWAY OPINION

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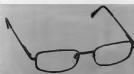
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GATEWAY OPINION

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What's the BFD with gigantic monuments?



DERREK GREBSKI

Town pride is an odd thing, especially when the community in question doesn't really have anything on which to base its collective ego. Sure, when you're the home of, say, the world's largest pumpkin, it's easy to choose a mascot, but how about the thousands of other towns and villages in which nothing unusual has ever really happened? Then, I guess, you're stuck with something like Hogzilla. Don't be fooled by the name, though, because it's not what you're thinking. Heil Hitler!

Unless, of course, you're thinking "large pig," in which case, it's exactly what you're thinking. In June of 2004, Chris Griffin of Alapaha, Georgia claimed to have killed a wild pig that was over twelve feet long and weighed 1000 pounds. For any non-hillbilly readers, that's apparently about three times the average size for one of these particular creatures. Unable to fit it in his freezer, he buried the thing in some miserable, backwoods swamp and proceeded to regale his toothless buddies with stories of what he had done.

Amazingly, this pig has since become big news among virtually all the major North American news outlets. Slightly less surprisingly, Alapaha has embraced the levitating hog as its mascot, to a point where it has prompted a parade, a carnival and—I only wish I were making this

up—the crowning of a hog princess. I will now pause to allow you to take in that last one.

Since there is no God, the story doesn't end there. This week, *National Geographic* went onsite to exhume the carcass and measure it in hopes of determining if this animal was, indeed, the world's largest wild pig. The result was broadcasted on a TV special this past weekend to rare reviews. Spoiler: it's not as big as Griffin claimed, but it's a record. If you won any money in a betting pool,

Alberta is no stranger to this type of madness either, as a quick search finds that our province is home to more than a dozen of the world's largest monuments.

you owe me half.

Now, as a rational human being, this is just about the stupidest thing you have ever heard. And that, my friends, is where you're wrong. The world's largest anything is big news in this crazy world, and it's clear that Hogzilla has instilled a sense of town pride down in Alapaha that is beyond what was ever imagined.

Alberta is no stranger to this type of madness either, as a quick search finds that our province is home to more than a dozen of the world's largest monuments. Some of these include a mallard duck in Andrew, a Ukrainian sausage in Mundare, and a golf putter in Bow Island. Why, even our little

burg is home to the world's largest baseball bat. You know, that wildly expensive monstrosity on 118 Avenue that everyone hates.

I guess I can understand the appeal if we're talking about something that is stunning visually, like the world's tallest building or longest bridge, but none of these are quite in the same category. I mean, a putter? What a riveting chamber of commerce meeting it must have been when that was chosen. Just about anyone who likes an old-fashioned road trip will agree that the journey often outweighs the destination, and I imagine that it's true for people who travel to see these things, but I've got to wonder how it all really benefits the towns that bankroll these monuments.

People from far and wide show up, take a picture, maybe grab a sandwich, and then leave. I'm no mathematician, but it sounds like it would take quite a few sandwiches to pay off a 3500-pound duck, so it's not likely a financial panacea. Maybe it's intended to gain notoriety for the community in hopes of attracting new residents. I'm not saying that this doesn't work, but it's been quite some time since I've heard someone say, "I came to see the giant duck and just never left."

It may surprise you to hear this, but spring is on its way. School is over in a month, and you'll soon need something to occupy those long summer days while everyone thinks you're working. Why not saddle up for a tour of Alberta's fine collection of things that are brutally dull when normally sized, and marginally less so when really large?

Maybe you'll like it so much that you'll move to Mundare and raise the first sausage princess. Dare to dream,

Dear Access Fund Board,

The Access Fund has helped immensely with our expenses and has indeed lifted a huge weight off of our shoulders. In all honesty, I do not know how to thank you enough. It is very hard when you find yourself in a situation where the life that you have worked so hard for could be taken from you in an instant. It has put a lot of things into perspective on what matters most.

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With appreciation,
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My new ribbon campaign is going to be totally awesome, as soon as I find a colour



KRISTINE
OWRAM

"Green? No, that means I want to stop the conflict in Darfur, support marijuana smokers, and promote open adoption records. Purple? But then people are going to think I'm against animal abuse, for prostate screening, and raising awareness of interpersonal abuse."

Okay, so I know it's a little campy and overdone, but I don't care—I love the song "Cadillac Ranch" by the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band. Most kids in junior high would sigh and roll their eyes and generally pretend to be way too cool when we had to line dance to it. I'd pretend I hated it too, but I always felt really guilty betraying Nitty Gritty like that. I'd make up for it, though, as soon as the music started playing. I'd tap my heel twice in front and my toe twice in back like there was no tomorrow, and when the chorus started playing, I couldn't help but sing along: "TEARING UP THE HIGHWAY LIKE A BIG OL' DINOSAUR!"

For some reason, people still make fun of me when I tell them this, but they obviously just don't understand—this is a really fucking good song. Because of this, I've decided to start a blue-ribbon campaign to raise awareness of this fact. I've suffered terribly every day of my life trying to promote its sheer line dance-tasticness, so please: next time you see a volunteer with a little basket of blue ribbons, pick one up to show your

support for this beautiful, beautiful song.

But before you do, make sure you're supporting the right blue-ribbon campaign—not the one for free speech online—those terrorists do not have the right to recruit on my Internet—or for the prevention of child abuse—I'm all for child abuse—or to support the Edmonton Police Service—because that involves inadvertently supporting 630 CHED—but the one to raise awareness of how bad "Cadillac Ranch" is.

Shit, that's confusing, isn't it? Maybe I should make it a red-ribbon campaign instead. Wait, that's already been co-opted by AIDS, tsunami relief, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, the state of Iowa telling us to "Take a stand—be drug free," dead Mounties, and, apparently, Jesus. Green? No, that means I want to stop the conflict in Darfur, support marijuana smokers, and promote open adoption records. Purple? But then people are going to think I'm against animal abuse, for prostate screening, and raising awareness of interpersonal abuse. Yellow? Wait, people might mistake that for being against teen suicide,

for Edmonton's military families, and raising awareness for children with spina bifida.

Okay, black. There's no way anyone's held a black-ribbon campaign before. Except, apparently, for anarchists, non-voters, and people who want to create an international photo album of the horrors of war.

Huh. What if I make it a bracelet campaign instead? The bracelet could be yellow, for my favourite colour of Cadillac, and rubber, and say something on it, like "Big ol' dinosaur" or something. There's no way anyone's ever started a rubber-yellow-bracelet-that-says-something-on-it campaign in support of anything. That would just be ridiculous.

Okay, then it's decided. My new organization, the Kristine Owram Foundation, will start marketing its standard-issue yellow rubber bracelets for \$1 apiece today. Buy them to show your support for people like me, who've suffered for their appreciation of line dancing to songs about Cadillacs. All proceeds will go to the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band.

Let the courts decide who's guilty or innocent



KIRK
ZEMBAL

Whatever happened to being innocent before being proven guilty? In our media-rich community, this has gone by the wayside, and we evidently know who's guilty before the verdict is read, if not even before the trial is started. We get some Wacko Jacko or OJ trial circus, with justice taking a back seat to spectacle and speculation.

For example, we now all know that Mark McGwire used anabolic steroids, but our evidence is suspect at best. We "know" he did it because some equally juiced-up ball player said so, and because McGwire evaded the question when asked. It was all over the sports pages; didn't you see? And now he's being harassed and denied from all directions, all because of speculation.

Any lawyer will tell you that refusing to answer questions—or going so far as to plead the fifth amendment, as it's called in the States—is not an admission of guilt. Refusing to incriminate yourself has never been, and will never be, used to convict someone of a crime, which is as it should be. But the media is not bound by the rules

of *habeas corpus*—it is protected by other rights, and it's free to libel and convict someone at its will.

Just look at the result of the Air India trial, where two men, Ripudaman Singh Malik and Ajai Singh Bagri, were acquitted of all charges. All we heard from almost any media source was how this was a "shocking" verdict, with some going so far as justifying that it was a "travesty of justice."

There is no mention of how our justice system has worked exactly as it should, or the suggestion that, just maybe, it might be better for a thousand guilty people to go free than one innocent person to go to prison.

There are calls for a public inquiry, and questions of whether Canada can prosecute terrorists. There is no mention of how our justice system has worked exactly as it should, or the suggestion that, just maybe, it might be better for a thousand guilty people to go free than one innocent person to

go to prison.

No matter how damning the evidence is, every defendant is to be afforded due process, and it is inexcusable that the media can circumvent this process at will. Already, the two former defendants are being subject to harassment at their homes and workplaces, and will likely be persecuted for many years to come.

The fact that I, personally, now know where they work and live is shocking in itself, considering that these are two innocent men who, in the eyes of the law, are equal Canadian citizens to you and I. Right, they are guilty, but maybe I shouldn't be able to pass judgment from my soapbox in print. And, if by some small chance they are innocent, then they've spent almost five years in prison for a crime they didn't commit, and as such, should probably be given some David Milgaard-esque compensation and compassion.

Perhaps being informed does do harm sometimes—at least when it comes to submitting those who should be considered innocent to judgment before the eyes of society, with no way of proving their innocence anyway. I believe in our courts, including judgment at the highest one of all, and if I find Ripudaman Singh Malik and Ajai Singh Bagri to accept their innocence just because the newspapers told me to.

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Essays must be between 750 and 1,000 words in length. To be considered, essays must be received by 12:00 noon, April 15, 2005.

Submissions can be sent by email to: essaycontest@walrusmagazine.com

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You have to use your freedom wisely

GRAHAM
LEITNER



Freedom sounds pretty good: do what you want when you want to. Not a tough concept to understand, and not very difficult to realize why people wouldn't mind having freedom in bunches. Curious that we've managed to find so many ways to squander our own free will.

The greatest destruction of freedom comes in addictions. You can choose to smoke, you can choose to drink, and you can choose to throw yourself entirely into getting top-notch grades. And one bright sunny morning you'll wake up and all of a sudden you won't really be choosing any of these actions at all. Because that is the way that addictions work. Whereas, in the beginning, you may have made the conscious decision to have a single rye and water to calm your nerves before a good night's sleep, now you can't get to bed without a sip from the bottle. And the daily smoke you decided would be comforting to ignite after your last class has begun to weigh so heavily on your mind that afternoons are spent endlessly fidgeting until you can find your next fix at the end of a cigarette.

Seemingly more innocuous than either of the above examples is around-the-clock studying. At the outset, the study hours grew from a desire to find a large law scholarship somewhere down south. Now they breed worries and concerns about each approaching exam. Never can there be enough studying, not for you, not when the best marks are just waiting to be had.

The paradox lies in the fact that each choice we make is supposedly an extension of our own free will, and yet, after so many repetitious choices, there comes a point at which our bodies choose for us. Freedom has been terminated not by occupying forces, or systematic indoctrination by an outside party. Nope, this time, you've managed to paint your own freedom into a corner, into a place too small to stretch out your arms to anything but the most comfortable actions.

When others are on infringing upon our own moral grounds, when others are intent on hemming in our decisions and options, we cry foul and we make ourselves heard. Mostly this is to scare off the freedom-snatching interlopers so we can do the task of marginalizing our actions much more efficiently ourselves. Racking up credit-card debt, refusing to extract ourselves from a malfunctioning relationship, becoming enraptured by drugs and alcohol, absolutely needing that quick caffeine fix in the morning—all of these are actions performed by those who long ago pawned off the ability to choose their own direction.

The cure? Self-denial. Not an easy pill to swallow in a North American culture of getting what we want when we want it. It wouldn't be such a bad idea if it weren't so damn austere, so remarkably old-fashioned. Fasting, isolation, and silence are all practices that are out of touch, dated, unworthy of our attention or energy.

However, denying oneself, stepping back from the easy, comfortable decisions is the first step in protecting your own freedom of choice. Doing it more often will leave you free of the thousand Lilliputian strings that encumber you and prevent your mind's own actions.

Freedom is pretty good. In fact, it's great. But it doesn't stick around for those who insist on trading it off for the comfortable easy.

What's so bad about a little colonialism?

JAMES
STORRIE



As far as conversation subjects at universities go, colonialism gets a pretty bad rap. We have got, like, 900 million post-colonial whatever studies in the course calendar, and even basic history classes are all now about "tolerance" and "cultural diversity."

Uh, like, whatever? What did colonialism ever do to anybody, aside from build them free schools and hospitals and churches? Sure, okay, some people got oppressed, and I'm not going to say, "You've gotta break a few eggs if you wanna bake an empire," but when corporations fly off the handle, we call that corruption: a corruption of the original principles of capitalism. Smallpox blankets and racial segregation are just corruptions of the colonial system; if the goal was just to murder all the unwashed masses, we could let the Americans take care of things.

I mean, let's face it: we've got it pretty good in Canada. Yes, there's some centralization of capital here and there, and maybe some distorted media or like, Internet pirates or something, but not many people starve. Even the US, which is totally bat-shit crazy compared to us, has it nicer than your average third-world nation.

We've gotten in this habit of "respecting" people by giving them gold blow-job stars of super-approval, even when they're doing blatantly stupid things like impoverishing their small south-of-the-equator nation to purchase chocolate motorcycles and golden basketballs. "All of the flavour, none of the calories" is supposed to be the selling point for sweet, delicious cola, not sovereign nations—especially not ones that have repeatedly come to war with, and defeated, "real" countries like, you know, Italy.

Yet we're doing pretty good up here, still, and Canada is just over 99 per cent inhospitable flesh-eating wasteland. Clearly we know how to run a goddamned country. Why aren't we colonizing every backward cesspool on the planet? This is obviously our as-of-yet-unmanifest destiny, the polite man's burden. Since we're all such bleeding-

heart compassionate liberals, we can totally pull this off without widespread genocide, too. Think of it as maple-syrup mercantilism.

If anything, colonialism is easier than ever in the 21st century: boats are totally wicked fast now, and we've got planes and helicopters, when they work. We can build towers so mind-fuckingly huge that we actually refer to them as skyscrapers. It is blatantly apparent that humanity has never, ever had it as good as it has in Canada, unless you count the mighty Arborescent kingdom of Aquilonia, which I don't.

A pan-global Canadian empire would be a thousand times more bad—k-r-a-d, if you will—than any Canadian endeavour prior, radder than blue helmets and space arms and insulin combined. The best part is that since we've been on the other end of the colonial stick, so to speak, we know exactly which Rubicons not to cross. This is how we should be using our post-colonial studies. In my mind: developing the policies for our own uniquely Canadian Iron-fisted autocracy.

If that doesn't work, there's always the dictatorship of the proletariat. I mean, in my day, there were no Fanon books: we read Marx, and we liked it.

**THE BURLAP
SACK**

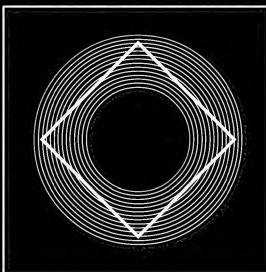
This sack beating goes out to Google News, the venerable news institution that has their top stories decided by robots. This fact became readily apparent this weekend when the top story on Google News was: how Google News was being sued for plagiarism.

Now, I realize news organizations have a responsibility to report all the news, but having your top story be a series of links to news stories explaining how you're getting sued for using stories without permission just seems especially stupid. Maybe, Google, you could just hire a few people to pick your damn stories for you.

DAVID BERRY

The Burlap Sack is a semi-regular feature where a person or group who needs to be put in a sack and beaten is ridiculed in print.

Do the lines of the square bend?



(Now, it's a perfect square.)

things are not always as they seem
did you know?

most U of A students (60%)
drink 1 to 3 drinks or do not drink
at all at parties and bars

based on fall 2003 survey data collected from a random sample
of 634 students at The University of Alberta
www.studentlifeeducation.com

THE CANADIAN COUNCIL ON
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The media should stop perpetuating gay stereotypes



TASHA YOUNG

Jane stopped reading magazines and starving herself; now she's big and beautiful. Dick stopped taking steroids to make himself look like the men on TV. Great. Heterosexual stereotypes thus crushed. Now, let's have a go at the gay stereotypes running rampant in the media.

Being more or less heterosexual, I have to admit I'm a bit naïve about gay culture. Even though I have a couple of gay guy friends and my best friend in high school was a lesbian, I'd like to learn more than the fact that, apparently, Angelina Jolie is irresistible no matter what your sexual preference.

The fact is, most of us, even as university students, learn more about gay culture from TV than from real life. And if we're relatively ignorant about it, just imagine the average person who doesn't live on the U of A promotional pamphlet in all its diverse, multicultural glory. Obviously, the world needs to get used to the homosexual community, and we should be doing whatever it takes to help that. Maybe, though, it's time to move past our media crutch. "Gay men are fun! They'll help you shop!" "Let's invite lesbians to the party! They'll kiss and you can watch!" When can we ditch the training wheels and start getting a proper idea of homosexual life?

Recently, I saw ads on TV for *The L Word*. The commercial begins much like an ad for *Sex and the City*. It tells of young, hip women who love shoes

and shopping. Then, the twist comes: they're lesbians. Images of trendy, feminine girls and the city skyline are replaced with two girls making out, and it then finishes us off with a girl who looks as if she's just had an orgasm. In an interview, the producer of the show said, by way of explanation, that TV always has to be more glamorous than real life. Fine, but nobody here wants to be treated as if we're threesome-starved men and bi-curious women, even if there was that one time that... never mind. All the same, the show is screaming sell-out by using the glorified hot bi-girl image on their commercials. It's two steps away from hot-oil wrestling.

While the show certainly deserves some credit for attempting to further awareness about the normalcy of the gay community, judging by the commercials they chose to air, I hardly think it's a fair sample of the lesbian community to take four ultra-feminine women—who would be undeniably

attractive to almost every male—and essentially coincidentally make them lesbians. And, of course, gay men also have to put up with shows like *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy* portraying gay males as invariably having comically flamboyant personas. It's as if the media fears that if it doesn't exaggerate traits of homosexuals, we won't be able to recognize them, because we can't immediately observe the difference between them and heterosexuals.

Now, I guess the most important point is that, though gay and lesbian culture is beginning to be a little more readily accepted, I'm looking forward to a time when we no longer need to resort to so many dirty tactics to encourage it. This community deserves support without having to whore out its most accepted assets, like lesbian chic. Why can't gay people be just like the rest of us; persecuted only by race, religion, gender, and social status? We'll deal with those just as soon as the oil wrestling is over.

Dave Alexander's TOP TEN

Things you're picking up at the amusement park

- 10 Brown acid from the one-eyed biker working the roller coaster.
- 9 Some major self-esteem issues from the Hall of Mirrors.
- 8 Garbage, at least until you're all done your community service for punching out that lipsy bearded woman.
- 7 Fatties with fatty packs hangin' out at the U! Donut stand.
- 6 The scent of cotton candy mixed with body odour and abject human misery.
- 5 Slightly used elephant, original tusks, very little rust, peanuts in trunk.
- 4 An awesome picture of a Ferrari, as soon as you knock down those goddamn milk jugs with this useless fucking softball.
- 3 Tips from a carry on the easiest way to kill a repo man with a coat hanger.
- 2 Really bad vibes from a new attraction called Tom Selleck's Wild Mustang Ride.
- 1 Clownmydia.

I'm tired of racist cabbies



IAN KITEKU

deterred by the colour of my skin. I suppose that they think I'm going to jump out of the car at the last moment to receive a free ride, or, worse yet, take their money, if not their car.

I don't mean to generalize about transportation facilitators, but for the most part, my experience has not been desirable. For example, that same night, when I finally managed to wave over a cab, the driver hesitated before he stopped. He then rolled down his window from a distance and asked where I was going, acting as if I was going to ask him to go the Bronx—fortunately for me, I only wanted to go to Southgate. He then motioned for me to get into his car. Despite the horrible hospital-ity, he still took a 40-cent tip which I realized later when counting my change—being a political science student, this task can take up to ten minutes, and the creak was long gone.

My cynicism towards cabbies has increased drastically over the past few years from things like being asked to pay up front, or to sit in the front seat so that he can keep his good eye on me, which is ironic, because if he took more than a moment to think, he would realize that me sitting in the front seat gives me ample opportunity to punch his face in. Lucky for him I believe in peaceful revolution. Some have even gone as far as to ask if I have money, though I have the decency not to ask them if they've got enough gas.

Look, we're enlightened; this has to stop. I'm tired of racist cabbies behaving like neo-Nazi prostitutes: giving great service to Caucasian customers but never giving the black ones a ride.

Under the illuminating influence of Stop Racism Day—last Monday, for those unaware—I find myself dumbfounded with immense elation and optimism. I'm in high spirits due to the fact that this enlightening day gives me initiative to seek out my history, fulfill my curiosity, and reassure myself that racism is a fixation of the past. Unfortunately, the latter of my assumptions changed drastically during the course of a Saturday night.

Standing at the corner of 112 Street and 87 Avenue, right by the campus Earls, I patiently awaited transportation service in the chilling cold, waving frantically for a taxi. As several passed me by, their frosty eyes emulating the night sky, I was reminded of the American stereotype that a black man just can't get a cab.

Now, you might be thinking to yourself that I'm overreacting, and creating a mountain out of a molehill—after all, it was the weekend, and as such taxis are extremely busy and likely contracted to pick up other customers. But, no, let me assure you that many had their "for hire" lights illuminated, and even though I am a black man against a dark sky, my exasperated wailing made me very visible. I even made eye contact with a few of them.

I can only assume by the aforementioned behaviours that they were




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PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY TIE AND TIE/KABAN

SUCK IT UP Critics who bash fellatio need to get their heads examined.

Don't blow your top over some simple sex acts



CHRISTOPHER WHITE

grief, then the actual delivery of these oral inoculations is an absolute sore spot with the chaste crusaders. This, though, is probably more the fault of the particular male lover's ineptitudes rather than man's natural design. The tactful male will avoid overexcitement, knowing that in his exuberance, he may discover what his mate had for lunch, to say nothing of the fact that stimulation of the gag reflex may also indefinitely postpone future services.

Conversely, though, without any prickles jutting out of their lower halves, women are in a far better position to thrust more freely. The image that springs to my mind regarding cunnilingus is one of a bull rider who, while bucking in accordance to the whims of the bull, has his head kept in the vice-like grip of its hindquarters. Typically, this hoodlum lasts for more than just eight seconds, and the cowboy is often left with a temporary case of jaw rickets, though, as noted above, you have a much harder time finding much info on this particular subject.

For instance, you could choke on the amount of information available regarding women's submissive role in the act of fellatio, while few seem interested in probing the phenomenon of cunnilingus. Are they really that different—physical distinctions aside? I can only assume that the authors spitting out tomes of anti-fellatio diatribes are either sexless puritans or suffer from such abysmal oral sex—both in the giving and receiving—that it has left nothing but a bad taste in their mouths.

The physical position of fellatio as presented in such "classics" as *Deep Throat* and *North Pole 14* is the focal point of the criticism. Because of the way in which the male body has been designed, this position has the woman kneeling in order to deliver the service. Many people see this as a dominant-submissive relationship, developed, no doubt, from centuries of prostration before God and crown—neither of whom seen free from sex scandal. Of course, fellatio can, and often is, performed while the male partner lies on his back, which blows that whole argument out of the pond.

But, if the mere positions cause such

To be fair, I have no doubt that members of both sexes the world over have their share of battle scars and war stories. Still, though, these anti-fellatio fanatics see fit to demonize one act while ignoring the other.

Sex can be many things: it is gentle and aggressive, moving and comical, sometimes all within a single sitting/laying. There is nothing in the mechanics of either fellatio or cunnilingus that set them apart from each other, and as such they should be appreciated as equals. Instead, though, oral sex has taken a place in many people's minds to represent the inequalities that exist between men and women, of which there are many more deserving causes. Of course, the champions who take up this cause are walking right into a web of delicious irony: by suggesting that there are inequalities where there are none, they go ahead and create them, thus continuing the cursed circle that circumvents conversations on this courteous act of coitus. Now that is a tongue twister.

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THE GATEWAY LITERARY CONTEST

An annual event judged by *Gateway* editors



winning photo by
Andrew Bacchus

Welcome to the *Gateway*'s literary contest. Over the last month, we have been sent dozens of submissions, and picking the best ones wasn't easy. In fact, some of the editors still don't agree. However, here we present our subjective choices.

The *Gateway* would like to thank all the aspiring scribes who dared to share their love, their tears, and the bitter taste of their sadness in literary (and photo) form.

The Winners

Really Short Fiction (under 150 words)

First Place: "Untitled" by Brenda Shaughnessy
Runners-Up: "Flash" by Brian Gibson

Short Fiction (under 1500 words)

First Place: "Untitled" by Jill Scheyk
Runners-Up (tie): "Night Ride Home" by Lindsay Stambuis and "A Thursday" by Indy Randhawa

Poetry

First Place: "97 Words Regarding a Future" by Dave Hollingshead
Runner-Up: "Hideout" by Jayne Nelson

Photo

First Place: Andrew Bacchus
Runners-Up (tie): Naomi Baker and Ryan Saunders

Short Fiction (less than 1500 words)

First Place

Untitled by Jill Scheyk

Words don't do justice. I could set the scene for you: tell you about the DC superhero encyclopaedia I was churning through, that I paid extra attention to The Ray's mercifully short career. That it was around ten. That the sheets were blue and the city rolled out before me in all its eleventh-floor-viewpoint glory. But all that exposition is useless. What good am I or the sheets?

I can tell you that I tensed when I first heard the screaming. It's not uncommon, where he lives, to overhear people fighting. Still, it chills a little.

This time it doesn't stop there, though. A woman's voice, loud, the other party silent. The repeated, dull thud of furniture being upset—or a body thrown at the walls. Pleading. Crying. Something hitting the floor, hard. Then the God-awful silence with its morbid implications.

It actually happens much faster than that.

Oh Jesus, I think of shattered skulls.

He calls the police at my insistence. I lie on the mattress, wishing I could go up there. I make deals with a God I don't believe in, I'm so damn sorry that my heart is splintering with the weight of it, but I don't know what for.

And the police never come.

I think of her; she can't be expecting help in this building.

Is she even alive to expect? Unconscious? Crying or bleeding or cradling a broken arm? I know that she knows no one is coming. It feels like a personal betrayal. I am a woman, too, after all. I can bleed, and break, and no one will be there to help me.

I'm sorry. I'm so, so sorry. I didn't realize.

No one will save her. In movies, the jealous husband hits the heroine and it's that *bastard*, I'd kill him, but I can't muster that feeling. I have no anger left, like a punch has taken the wind out of me. The sick, infected silence goes on and on.

He's trying to make me laugh, because I'm just staring at the ceiling. He's worried, perhaps, but only about me. He has embraced his own helplessness.

Confession, he says, *if you weren't here I probably wouldn't have called the cops. I would have just laid there with a disgusted look on my face.*

I think of her, bleeding. Touching her lip, staring at the copper smear on her fingertips. Indifference costs her nothing because it's all she ever gets, anyway.

I didn't realize.

Who can know that this really happens? That people suffer like this?

So sorry.

I can't fix it.

The next morning I go out for breakfast like nothing happened. I want to say the food tastes like ash to me, but truthfully it is wonderful. It hits my tongue and I know that I'm alive, still. Guilty for my pleasure, I try not to savour the mint the waitress gives me. She looks cheerful enough, but who's to say? Maybe last night she was crying too, her bruised cheek pressed to cold linoleum, waiting for rescue that didn't come. If I look closer, maybe I'll see makeup carefully caked over the wound.

I don't check.

Runner-Up (tie)

Night Ride Home by Lindsay Stambuis

"Once in a while, in a big, blue moon, there comes a night like this..."

Tonight is one of those nights, those perfect nights, where the sky is crystal clear, right up to the stars etched in the heavens. The breeze is cool and scented by wild roses and lilacs and evening stock. Over the rise of the moonlit field to the left of the highway comes the syncopated song of the crickets and cicadas, carried like pale moonbeams on a gentle wind that invites itself through my open window. The road stretches on to the horizon in front of me, behind me, and suddenly, I'm thankful for the solitude. People ruin things. And this is too calming, too...right...to be ruined by civilization. It's just me, the breeze with the flowery perfume and the crickets.

This is how I remember our night now, how I'll always remember it.

Joni Mitchell's "Night Ride Home" fills the car. That's my favourite song; and I can't help but tap the fingers of my left hand on the steering wheel as my car hurries along the deserted highway. My right hand claps a yellow manila envelope in my lap, making sure that the contents don't slip out to the floor. I don't even know the name of the highway I'm on—I only know that it leads home. Mom told me to take the Coquihalla from Vancouver to Kamloops, and then the Yellowhead the rest of the way to Edmonton, but I don't like that route much. It's secondary highways for me, all the way. I tell her that I do it to save time. It's a lie, of course; that's why *secondary highways* are secondary. I really take them for the scenery.

It's your fault, you know. You got me hooked on the scenic route.

"...Like some surrealist invented this Fourth of July night ride home."

"Our night" was during the summer we drove to Vancouver to visit your family. Do you remember? We were 19, I think it was our first summer together. On the way back home, we made this decision to drive the whole way overnight. We listened to Joni the whole way and you knew all the words. We tried to listen to every song but in the end we only listened to "Night Ride Home".

"I love the man beside me. We have the open road."

We had passed this field just outside of Edson. It was about three in the morning, and the sun wouldn't be up for a few hours yet. Yet this field *glowed*. It looked like it was lit from beneath the ground, shining silver. There was this low hill right about in the middle of it, and on top, a stand of poplars had taken root and begun to grow. It was an average field; that's what it amounted to in my eyes. But you pulled over and parked the car on the shoulder of the highway. I asked what it was, and you just pointed. I looked out the window, seeing nothing special. *There, there!* you pointed, and I stared and stared. What was so special about this place? Look at our *fireflies*, you whispered. Something clicked and I focused in on the poplars. There, drifting on the wind or maybe just caught in whirling thermal zephyrs, were hundreds of tiny poplar seeds. Caught in the moonbeams that lit them from behind, we both got the impression that we were witnessing hundreds of tiny fireflies dancing on the blades of grass. We knew better, but neither one of us wanted to believe that those tiny dancers could be anything less than ballerinas.

You grabbed your camera, got out to stand on the side of the road. The light was far too low for you to take a picture just holding the camera in your hands, but you had your trusty tripod with you, so everything was okay. You were so confident whenever you set your camera on that tripod. Who wouldn't be? You could shoot anything from there.

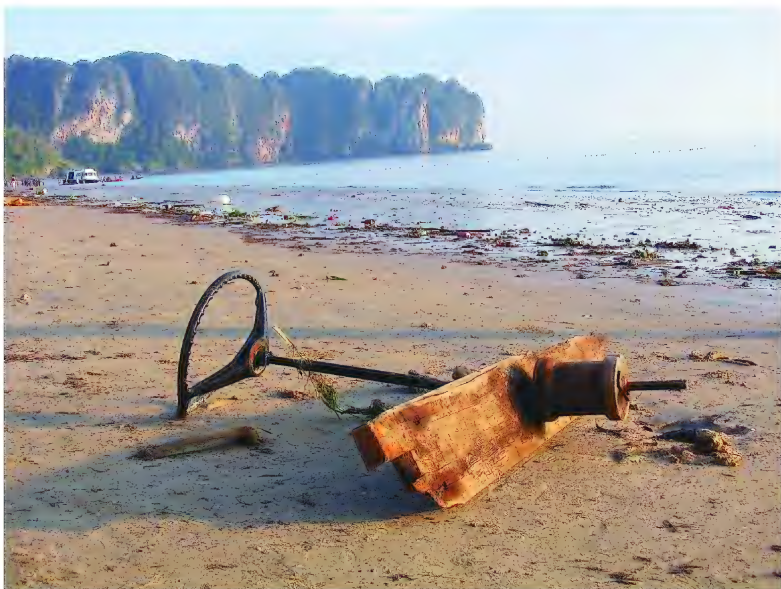
I remember you climbing on top of the car, and me yelling at you to get down. You took at least five pictures after you set yourself up, quietly observing the magic as it unfolded. Capturing that stark image on the black and white film. Dating a photographer had its perks, but I think the biggest joy I had was in seeing those images that you picked through the viewfinder. The last photo you shot that night was my favourite of the five you took.

This was the picture you used.

And now, tonight, I'm passing through a field like that. This field, the one on my left...it looks just like that first field. In fact, it just might be the same one. And I wish with everything I have that I could stop the car, pull over like you did, and see if I could catch *just one* firefly. If I did I know I'd never go home. But right now I need to go home. It's started to smell like rain and I won't drive in the rain anymore. You drove in the rain and you never came back home.



runner-up photo by Naomi Baker



runner-up photo by
Ryan Saunders

It's been a long weekend.

"No phones till Friday. Far from the overkill, far from the overload ..."

You sent off that photo to the scholarship people at the end of the summer. A letter arrived over Christmas that said you had been shortlisted, and in April a phone call told us that you had won. The awards ceremony was in Calgary on 4 July—a year, to the day, after you took the photos. I had to work that weekend, so your roommate went with you. I wanted to go so badly; I was so proud of you. It was \$25 CCC, which would have covered most of your university tuition fees. You said that I deserved the credit for choosing the winning photo, that I deserved half of the money. I told you that you were crazy. But you kept pointing out that it was my choice to send that *particular* photo away. I'd been the one who'd done it. Chosen a winner.

You didn't come home that weekend. There was a thunderstorm. They told me you probably had no idea what was happening; that's how quick your car skidded off the highway.

"Far from the undertow, far from the overload"

I hate funerals. I had the good fortune of not having to attend one until this weekend, but I think I will always hate funerals because of this. But I have to admit, yours *was* pretty. You would have wanted someone to take a picture of the church. Medieval and gothic, covered in vines like those abbeys you see in postcards from tiny hamlets in England. *The prettiest church in all of Vancouver*, I heard one lady say as she dabbed at her eyes with a tissue. *He would have liked it*. The funny thing is, though I don't know her at all, she knows you very well. Because she's absolutely right. You would have loved it.

Now, Edmonton comes into view on the horizon. This hazy dome of light stretching across the line where the sky meets the earth; this is the city I live in. It feels like I've navigated the world and this is the city that I come back to every time. I press on, hoping to make good time. My eyes are grainy and I'm struggling to keep them open. Joni continues to serenade through the speakers.

"Once in a while ..."

All I've got left to remind me of you is a faded manila envelope with your photos inside, images that you saw and captured, developed and printed. Looking at them is like viewing the

world through your eyes, because *this is what you saw*. Each and every one of those prints is an image that you personally decided was too beautiful to go unnoticed. It's a small comfort, knowing that I have a piece of you with me.

I clutch it tighter in my hands as I drive.

I don't drive in the rain anymore because the rain took you from me. But I will still drive at night—all night—from Vancouver to Edmonton, whenever I get the chance. This night, the night I'm driving back from your funeral, it's only the first in a long line of nights that I'll travel through. I'll drive straight on until the sun comes up over the horizon, as long as it's Edmonton that I arrive in. I'll keep driving, speeding along down the deserted highway, kicking up dust behind me and carving a path homebound up front. Ms Mitchell will always be on the CD player.

"... Like some surrealist invented this Fourth of July night ride home."

Song credit: Joni Mitchell, "Night Ride Home," *Night Ride Home*. Geffen, 1991.

Runner-Up (tie)

A Thursday by Indy Randhawa

It's 5:30am. Shit. I haven't slept in days. Something's gotta give. Class at eight. Midterm. Shit. I swear too much. I crawl out of the bed that has brought me no rest and speaks loudly during sex and feel my way slowly up the stairs. It's freezing in here. Everyone is still sleeping, but someone has left the TV on. Vincent Price is unloading the contents of his hearse into a flaming pit. I figure that since I can't sleep I might as well squeeze in a run before school. I lace up my Adidas runners, the white ones, and take off down the street. It's still dark out. Dark and cold. When you run on snowy streets your feet kick up a swirl of powder. It makes it feel like someone's following you.

The midterm doesn't go so well, the multiple choice has way too many Cs. The answer I write for one of the essay questions is "I don't give a fuck about the effect of architecture on Hellenic society." In English class, I talk to the girl beside me about the stress of midterms, how trendy *The Divine Comedy* has become, and her plans for the weekend, which include large amounts of drinking and little else. During our painfully typical conversation I fantasize about her. About her hot breath

in my ear, about the salt of her sweat, about the touch of her lips.

I eat lunch alone, in an empty hallway in some drafty building I don't know the name of. It used to bug me when I couldn't remember what day of the week it was, now I'm not sure if I'm a sophomore or a junior. Fuck, I might be graduating next semester, but there are bigger problems at hand. I spend my entire lunch break peeling and eating an orange. It's very good, but it has seeds.

In psych class I zone out. Images of obnoxiously loud nightclub, asphalt, sweat, gleaming steel, and blood drown out the prof who is trying to be funny. An indistinct remixed rap song is making my constant headache worse. I rescue some drunk blonde from an equally drunk asshole wearing a silver chain over a turtleneck. She's hot, maybe a little slutty looking, but in good shape, so I'm thinking why not? Something's gotta give. We half-stumble to my place, she falls in the parking lot. I practically carry her to my bedroom. I try to keep her quiet at first, but quickly give up. She pretends she doesn't know what's going to happen. When I make the first move (very indiscreetly) she doesn't mind. "Have we done this before?" she asks with a nauseatingly fake shy giggle.

"Trust me," I say, breaking a smile for the first time, "you'd remember me." At this point I reach into my nightstand—and I'm violently pulled back into reality. A fat girl is tapping my shoulder with her fat finger. Class is over. I walk out without looking at her or saying a word.

I leave school at 4:30. When I get home it's after midnight. I have no idea where I've been or what I've done in the last nine and a half hours. I have scratches on my arms and hands, the worst of which are still bleeding. None of this bothers me. The only thing that is the slightest bit unsettling about this situation is its familiarity.

It's 4:00am. Shit. I should try to sleep. I wrap the stiff body of a thin French girl, who once was a brunette, in the plastic tarp that was collecting her blood and roll the bundle off my bed. The blood has coagulated into the consistency of a cheap hair gel my mother used to buy for me in junior high. For a split second I wonder what the girl's name was, or if I even knew it. But soon I drift, and my mind is flooded with images of a mirror being nailed to a door, hair, a Murnau film, and snow. Snow swirling on concrete. In the air. Beneath my feet. I can't keep on like this. Something's gotta give. I close my eyes and concentrate on the word sleep. Sleep. Sleep. Sleep. It's 5:30am. Shit.

Really Short Fiction (less than 150 words)

First Place

Untitled by Brenda Shaughnessy

So I says to meself, "Self, you oughta get yourself a gun." So I goes to Jethro's an' trades 'im a bott'a shine fer a Remington 12-gauge. Then I says to meself, "Self, you oughta get yourself a lock. Not to keeps people outta the house, to keeps 'em in!" So I rebuilds the carb, puts the wheels back on the truck, an' drives into town. I goes to buy me a lock, and I thinks to myself, "Self, you fergetted yer wallet." So I goes home without my lock, stoppin' once tigt dinner. Roadkillt, charcoal-grillt skwirl is good eatins.

Runner-Up

flash by Brian Gibson

Tonight, walking home on sidewalk squares, the dull ruse of the railway bridge ahead, the cars bursting bubbles of sound, a strange dog suddenly appears. Stops. It looks at you and you look at it. A fox, tawny brown in the bruise of night, its tail flicking a streak of orange in the darkness. You stare at each other, unsure. It cocks its head, glances around, then scampers off into a backyard. And now there are only the long, still shadows of trees, the frozen breaths of cloud in the sheen of sky, and you feel the silence everywhere.

Poetry

First Place

97 Words Regarding a Future by David Hollingshead

Sleepwalk a fluorescent night through grey waiting rooms at O'Hare.
Open your eyes in Munich to skinheads being led underground by police.
Look how they stare at you over riot shields.
Read a book about dying.
Ask a girl named Corinne—English accent comes and goes—on a date.
She tells you that you are "antithetical to the Corinne project."
Give a paper at Yale.
Accidentally wander off campus and get yourself involved with violent nomads.
Lead the pillage of New Haven.
Call yourself "post-progress."
Fuck this, you tell Corinne, in bed later that evening.
Fuck academia.

Runner-Up

Hideout by Jayne Nelson

Sweet, soft, wanes
Thick pungent smoke curls between my toes
Stretched out on a hammock
Watching a spider climb the wall
I can hear echoes of mercenaries
Drinkers, gamblers
Revolution
I clasp a cigar between my teeth
Laughing at the idiocracy of the situation
Copper ruins
French baguettes
Legacy, they say.
It makes me laugh.

Bubbling, gurgling, frothing at the mouth
I am away

The spider climbs across my cheek
Its legs prodding to see if I'm alive
I am alive
I am alive!
The surf laughs a horse laugh
The whales are watching me
Bright red letters appear on the spider's back
Eliza, she whispers
I do not know what she means.
And I wake.

Contest Fact Box

Number of photography entries: 11
Number of poetry entries: 42
Number of short fiction entries: 31
Number of really short fiction entries: 25
Total: 109

Number of entries ...

About sex: 10
About love: 16
About death: 20
Using nature as a metaphor for feelings: 9
About how school is hard: 5
About moms: 2
About dads: 2
Inspired by Alfred Hitchcock: 1
Inspired by TS Eliot: 1
Written in red-neck vernacular: 2

About sexy, sexy Italians: 1
About how SU bars are expensive: 1
From 2005 SU election candidates: 1

Best quote from a literary contest judge:

"There is nothing like bad poetry to make you appreciate good poetry."

Most apt piece of advice from a judge about people thinking of entering the next contest:

"Narrative coherence is more important than flowery words. Most of the entries that weren't in the top group weren't there because they were overwritten to the point where they didn't make any sense. Economy and subtlety were two things glaringly missing from the contest."

Students' Union

Employment Opportunities - Associate Director Positions



Application Deadline: 5:00pm, Tuesday, March 29, 2005.
Please submit completed application forms to 2-900 SUB.

Application Forms: Application forms are available at 2-900 SUB, all Students' Union Information Booths, and online at www.su.ualberta.ca.

Detailed job descriptions are available at 2-900 SUB

Important Instructions:

- Please submit only single sided documents
- Please be available for the noted interview times
- Applicants must be undergraduate students and have paid the Students' Union Fees
- Please note: We thank all applicants, however, ONLY SHORTLISTED CANDIDATES WILL BE CONTACTED.

Information Services

Associate Director – Information

Term: May 1, 2005 – April 30, 2006

Hours: 25 hours/week

Remuneration: \$934/month

Description: The AD-Information at Information Services will perform the following duties including, but not limited to, responsibility for administering all databases including the online Exam, Ride Sharing, Tutor, used Book and Volunteer Listings. The AD is also responsible for the collection and upkeep of all information materials from campus groups, businesses and student services and compiling this information in the central database. The AD will assist the Director in all facets of staff management and perform other duties as assigned by the Director.

Interviews scheduled for Wednesday, April 6, starting at 5:00pm.

Information Services

Associate Director – Administration

Term: May 1, 2005 – April 30, 2006

Hours: 25 hours/week

Remuneration: \$934/month

Description: The AD-Administration at Information Services will perform the following duties including, but not limited to, handling and reconciling all cash, debit and credit card transactions from the main office and four satellite information desks. In addition the AD is responsible for the distribution of tickets for campus events as well as all ETS Bus Passes and Bus Tickets. The AD will be responsible for ensuring that all four Information desks are operating effectively, and will assist the Director in all facets of staff management and perform other duties as assigned.

Interviews scheduled for Wednesday, April 6, starting at 7:00pm.

Safewalk

Associate Director

Term: August 15, 2005 – April 30, 2006

Hours: 20 hours/week

Remuneration: \$636/month

Description: The AD is responsible for the technical component of the service, upkeep and maintenance of equipment, providing supplemental training for dispatch volunteers and other duties as outlined in the employment contract and as may be specified by time to time by the Director of Safewalk.

Interviews scheduled for Thursday, April 7, starting at 5:00pm.

Centre For Student Development

Administrative Coordinator

Term: May 1, 2005 – September 30, 2005

Hours: May 1, 2005 – August 31, 2005 (35 hours/wk)

September 1 – September 30, 2005 (25 hours/week)

Remuneration: May 1, 2005 – August 31, 2005 (\$1239/month)

September 1 – 30, 2005 (\$1015/month)

Description: Duties of the AC include, but are not limited to: coordinating the student registration process; coordinating room bookings on campus; maintaining a particular database; working closely with the Orientation Team. Expertise in the following areas would be considered assets: database experience (specifically with Filemaker Pro), working with the public, some office administrative experience, as well as an understanding of the Programs offered through the CSD.

Interviews scheduled for Monday, April 11, starting at 6:00pm.

Campus Ambassador Coordinator

Term: May 1, 2005 – April 30, 2006

Hours: May 1, 2005 – August 31, 2005 (35 hours/week)

September 1, 2005 – April 30, 2006 (25 hours/week)

Remuneration: May 1, 2005 – August 31, 2005 (\$1239/month)

September 1, 2005 – April 30, 2006 (\$1015/month)

Description: The CAC is responsible for coordinating and marketing the Campus Ambassador Program. Responsibilities also include recruitment and training of all volunteer tour guides, First Year Initiative mentors, and volunteer for the U of A open House. The CAC is also responsible for the marketing, implementation and coordination

of the First Year Initiative student for a day program. On a daily basis the CAC is responsible for booking tours with interested parties, and ensuring that tours booked through their office as well as the office of the Registrar and Student Awards are assigned a Campus Ambassador tour guide.

Interviews scheduled for Tuesday, April 12, starting at 6:00pm.

Associate Director – Access Fund

Term: May 1, 2005 – April 30, 2006

Hours: 25 hours/week

Remuneration: \$1129/month

Description: The AD-Access Fund will have primary responsibilities of the administration of the Access Fund. The AD will play a key role on the management team and will contribute to the overall management of the SFAIC.

Interviews scheduled for Thursday, April 7, starting at 7:00pm.

Associate Director – Student Group Services

Term: August 1, 2005 – April 30, 2006

Hours: August 1 – 31, 2005 & April 1 – 30, 2006 (10 hours/week)

September 1, 2005 – March 31, 2006 (20 hours/week)

Remuneration: August 1 – 31, 2005 & April 1 – 30, 2006 (\$325/month)

September 1, 2005 – March 31, 2006 (\$650/month)

Description: The Student Group Services Associate Director is responsible to the Student Group Services Director and assists in promoting cooperation and coordination among Student Groups. This individual will also aid in the daily administrative operations of the Student Group Services office including, but not limited to the regular updating of the Student Group Services Database, updating the service website, and assisting with the registration and granting processes.

Interviews scheduled for Friday, April 8, starting at 5:00pm.

Student Distress Centre

Team Lead – 2 Positions available

Term: August 1, 2005 – April 30, 2006

Hours: 10-15 hours/week

Remuneration: \$318/month

Description: The SDC Team Leaders are responsible to the SDC Director and works closely with the Director in overseeing the organization and operations of SDC. While sharing many similar duties such as interviewing, training and appreciating volunteers, there are individual responsibilities allocated to each Team Leader. One Team leader is responsible for volunteer scheduling and resource library management, and the other is responsible for updating call/drop-in statistics and organizing education and awareness booths. In your cover letter for these positions please indicate which position you are most interested in.

Interviews scheduled for Wednesday, April 13, starting at 5:00pm.

Associate Director – ECOS

Term: May 1, 2005 – April 30, 2006

Hours: 10 hours/week

Remuneration: \$318/month

Description: The ECOS Associate Director will perform the following duties including but not limited to: the managing and coordination of ECOS volunteers, providing assistance in the research, development, and facilitation of the ECOS projects. In addition, the ECOS Associate Director will work on specific projects at the direction of the ECOS Director.

Interviews scheduled for Friday, April 8, starting at 7:00pm.

Associate Director – Campus Food Bank

Term: August 15, 2005 – April 30, 2006

Hours: 15 hours/week

Remuneration: \$524/month

Description: The Campus Food Bank Associate Director is responsible to the Campus Food Bank Director and assists in ensuring that the Campus food Bank is properly staffed with an adequate number of properly trained volunteers. Providing support to the Director in an administrative role as well as ensuring that the Campus food Bank is properly stocked to meet the needs of its clientele.

Interview times to be announced.

SPORTS

sports@gatewayalberta.ca • Thursday, 24 March, 2005

Expectations high for host Bears

In part two of the *Gateway's* University Cup preview, we look at Pool A: the Manitoba Bisons, UQTR Patriotes and Alberta Golden Bears

ROSS PRISAKOWSKI
Sports Writer

For many of the other teams in the University Cup this weekend, just making it to the tournament is a great accomplishment, and anything more will just add to an already stellar season. However, for the top-ranked and host Alberta Golden Bears, anything less than capturing their eleventh CIS title and the whole season will be seen as a letdown—at least to most people outside the team.

"Now it's just a matter of putting a punctuation mark on the season we've had, because it's been a terrific year."

ROB DAUM,
GOLDEN BEARS HEAD COACH

"Is [not winning the CIS title] going to diminish our accomplishments up until this point? It shouldn't; it will in everybody else's eyes, but I don't think it will in our team's eyes," said Bears head coach Rob Daum. "The thing is that, when you play for national championships, anything less than winning it is a disappointment. But you have to be able to put that in perspective, and what happens here with the people outside our team is that anything less than a national championship is not good enough, and that's just the way it is—that's how high the expectations are."

Those high expectations from fans are justified, though, as the Bears dominated Canada West hockey this year, racking up a 24-3-1 record in conference play on their way to capturing



FILE PHOTO: MARCUS BENCE

INCOMING The top-seeded Bears will have to stop a five-team onslaught to claim this year's University Cup after falling short four years in a row.

their fifth-straight conference title. According to Daum, that's an accomplishment the team has been focused on since September, though entering the tournament as the top seed is something that came as a surprise.

"We didn't expect it in September, but as the season progressed I think we've earned that position, and I think that our team's had a terrific year," said Daum. "Any time you can win a conference championship your team has had a terrific year, and if you can do it with the record we have, you've had a good year. Now it's just a matter of putting a punctuation mark on the season we've

had, because it's been a terrific year."

That terrific year might all be for nothing though, because of the three-team round-robin setup of the tournament in which one loss can effectively eliminate a team from gold-medal contention. The format has wreaked havoc with the Bears since they captured their last CIS title in 1999-2000 and is something that could crop up again with the strength of the teams in this year's tournament.

"The five teams that are coming in here are all good teams," said Daum. "They all play a different style, but we play different styles in our

regular season games, so I don't think we'll have any trouble adjusting to their styles of play."

Regardless of the competition, the pressure of playing for a CIS title in front of a home crowd for the first time since 1987, and the expectations placed on his team by fans, Daum still maintains a pragmatic outlook on the tournament and his team's prospects.

"If we don't win this tournament, it's going to be a disappointment, but it's going to be a disappointment to the other five teams that are here too. There's only one team that's going to come out of here and be happy."

Games at Rexall an opportunity to showcase university hockey

UNIVERSITY CUP • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"That tells you the kind of walk-up we get. We're pretty confident that we're going to hit our goal."

All-star Bears centre Brad Tutschek also expressed confidence that fans would flock to the event in the end.

"They really support their teams here in Edmonton, like the under-19 women's soccer filling Commonwealth [in 2002]," he said. "So hopefully fans will read about [the University Cup] and maybe come down and see it."

"It's more than playoff hockey; it's championship hockey every night, and anybody who's a fan of the game ... knows the level of intensity increases each time you take a step forward."

ROB DAUM,
GOLDEN BEARS HEAD COACH

about 3000 spectators, was intended to help expose the game to a wider audience and take advantage of the NHL lockout.

Bears head coach Rob Daum echoed those hopes, though he insisted that his team won't be fazed if ticket sales fall short of targets. "It's a great opportunity for our athletes, and a great chance for us to expose our product to a wider base, so we're really looking forward to it," he said. "A big crowd would be to our advantage; I think it would be a huge motivator for our team. But if we don't get that, we still have to go out; we have to play."

In an effort to aid ticket sales, the host committee tried to alter the schedule so that the fifth-seeded Saskatchewan Huskies would be guaranteed a spot in one of the two round-robin games at Rexall, but the Huskies' pool-mates, the second-seeded Moncton Aigles Bleus and third-seeded Western Mustangs, vetoed the idea. Huskies head coach Dave Adolph suggested that that will make it difficult for Saskatchewan fans—who are well-known for traveling to watch their sports teams—to come to the University Cup, noting that there's always a vocal segment of Huskies fans at games in Edmonton.

"Even the Saskatchewan people who are in Alberta—we get a large number of people who don't know anything about our team specifically, but because of the fact that they're from Saskatchewan, they come and watch us play the Bears," said Adolph.



LEANNE BROWN

MY PRECIOUS Head coaches of Saskatchewan, Alberta, UQTR and Moncton pose with the Cup.

The success of sales efforts likely won't be known until game time, but Daum said that fans who don't flock to the games will be missing out.

"They're going to be missing out on as good of hockey as they're going to see in Edmonton all year. The games are going to be great; if they're hockey fans, they'll be missing out big time,"

he said.

"It's more than playoff hockey; it's championship hockey every night, and anybody who's a fan of the game or understands the game knows the level of intensity increases each time you take a step forward. And [the players] are more mature than major junior players; they have an outstanding skill level. That's what they'll be missing."

Bisons return to Cup after 40-year absence

REGAN SARMATUK
The Manitoban

WINNIPEG (CUP)—From the start of their 2004/05 campaign, the Manitoba Bisons men's hockey team has held a singular focus: making the national championships. That goal was realized on 12 March as the Bisons defeated the Calgary Dinos to sweep the best-of-three series for the final wild-card berth into the University Cup.

The Bisons are making their first trip to nationals since 1965, when the herd participated in the Western Regional Series, then considered part of the national championship. More importantly, it will be the first time since the Bisons won the national title in 1965 that Manitoba has sent a team to the University Cup.

"It's just overwhelming," a clearly emotional head coach Mike Strant said following their series win versus the Dinos. He described his team as "a group of guys with a shared dream that just worked very hard and dedicated themselves all season to making a dream a reality."

Although making it to the Cup is a big accomplishment, Strant said his team's drive certainly isn't sated yet. Pretty much anything can happen at nationals, a fact that isn't lost on Canada West men's hockey MVP Paul Deniset.

"Last year, Alberta didn't lose all year until they got to nationals," he said. "So we'll go in there [knowing that] we've beaten Saskatchewan, we've beaten Alberta. We haven't played the teams out east, but we know we're competitive; we know we can win."

There's no denying that Deniset has played a central part in the success that the Bisons have enjoyed this season.



UNBEATEN IN FOUR DECADES The Bisons play their first University Cup game since 1965 at 7pm today at Clare Drake Arena against the UQTR Patriotes.

FILE PHOTO: MICHAEL LEWIS

The third-year forward led the conference in goals during the regular season with 23, and tied for second in points with 39. He has continued his scoring ways during the playoffs, racking up eight goals and four assists in six playoff games. Strant hardly knew where to begin when asked to describe what the

Winnipeg native means to the team. "There's no doubt that he's been our most valuable player," said Strant. "Paul brings everything to us. We count on him in all situations: power play, penalty kill—he gets a lot of ice. He's consistently one of our best players. He steps up at key times in the

game—whether it's making a great play or scoring a goal—and makes a difference for our hockey team."

The Bisons have also received solid goaltending from Canada West freshman of the year Krister Toews. He wound up in the top three in many categories, racking up a 2.74 goals-

against average and a .908 save percentage, and was named to the Canada West second-all-star team.

"Krister has given us the goaltending we've needed all year to be successful, and goaltending is so important in the playoffs," said Strant. "We're confident he's going to continue his strong play."

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Trois Rivières looking for trio of titles in five-year span

OUA East-champion Université de Québec à Trois Rivières Patriotes missed tournament last year, but won two golds and a silver in three previous years

CHLOÉ FÉDIO
Sports Writer

After being absent from the tournament last year, the Université de Québec à Trois Rivières Patriotes men's hockey team is sharpening their skates for a return to the University Cup, beginning today at Clare Drake Arena.

Last Saturday night, the Patriotes played for the Queen's Cup—the trophy awarded to the Ontario University Athletics (OUA) men's hockey champions—but lost to their long-time rivals, the Western Mustangs, who blanked the visiting Patriotes 4-0.

It was an opportunity for UQTR to win the Queen's Cup for the sixth time in seven years—three of those wins being victories against Western—and claim the third seed this weekend, but instead they're seeded fourth.

The Patriotes may still have a chance to defeat the third-seeded Mustangs in Monday's championship final, but first they'll have to get past their pool-mates, the host Alberta Golden Bears, who are expected to be the greatest challenge during the championships.

"We are aware that the U of A team is the favourite to win," said Patriotes head coach Jacques Laporte, speaking in French. "They've always been a strong team and have a history of wins at this level. They have the advantage

of playing at home, so it will be a difficult team to beat, that's for sure."

Laporte insisted, though, that the University Cup promises to be a competitive event for all teams involved.

"At this level—the six best teams in Canada—each game will be a challenge and there will be no easy wins," said Laporte.

"There's no superstar on our team this year. In other years we had a player that stuck out, but not this year. We have a good goaltender and a good defense too, but we fall a little short in the offense."

JACQUES LAPORTE,
HEAD COACH, UQTR PATRIOTES

The Patriotes—CIS champs in both 2001 and 2003, and silver medalists in 2002 after a triple-overtime loss to the Western Mustangs in the final—do not have any key players who stand out above the rest, but rather the team as a whole performs well, according to Laporte.

"There's no superstar on our team

this year," he said. "In other years we had a player that stuck out, but not this year. We have a good goaltender and a good defense too, but we fall a little short in the offense. We play well collectively, as a team."

Laporte, who has been coaching the Patriotes for six years and has been to the national championships five times in that span, including the two national titles, said that the advantage of experience translates to success in the game.

"Some of the guys on our team this year were at the championships a couple years ago in Fredericton, so they have that experience and they know what to expect. They are going to lead the rest of the team and guide this experience," said Laporte.

The Patriotes will open their tournament at 7pm tonight at Clare Drake Arena against the Manitoba Bisons before facing the Bears (7pm tomorrow at Clare Drake Arena if they lose to the Bisons, 6pm Sunday at Rexall Place if they win), and Laporte said his players are looking forward to the games and are up for the challenge.

"We've good collectively as a team in all facets; the players are able and have physical strength. We're a very disciplined bunch," he said.

"It's going to be a good experience for all the players and for the entire organization in general. We're looking forward to the tournament."

The Student Awards Office has several scholarship competitions running over the summer. Each competition has its own set of criteria and eligibility requirements as outlined in the following descriptions.

University of Alberta Undergraduate Academic Scholarship Competition
The Undergraduate Academic Scholarship Competition recognizes and rewards students for superior academic achievement (minimum GPA of 3.5) on a full normal course load taken at the University of Alberta during the September to April academic year. There are approximately 300 awards available through this competition. The awards range in value from \$500 to \$6,000 with some being Faculty specific and some open to students in any Faculty. Students can submit their applications online at www.registrar.ualberta.ca/awards.

Applicants must be returning to full-time studies in September 2005 to be eligible for these scholarships. Deadline for receipt of applications is 01 August 2005.

University of Alberta Dr Horst A Schmid Travel Bursary

The Dr Horst A Schmid Travel Bursary was created to assist with the costs of participating in an international academic exchange. A number of scholarships are available ranging from \$500 to \$1,500. Application forms are available at the Education Abroad Program, 8920 HUB.

Applicants must be registered in an undergraduate degree program and must be part of an official University of Alberta exchange program to be eligible for this bursary. Deadline for receipt of applications in the International Centre is 01 June 2005.

Louise McKinney Post-Secondary Scholarships

The Louise McKinney Post-Secondary Scholarship Competition was created by the Alberta Scholarship Office to recognize and reward students for their academic achievements and encourage them to continue in their undergraduate program. Approximately 250 scholarships valued at \$2,500 each are available to University of Alberta students in the top 1 to 2% of their class. Candidates are nominated by the Student Awards Office and will be sent an application form in June.

Applicants must be Alberta residents and plan to enroll at the University of Alberta in the second or subsequent year of a full-time program. Students who have completed a degree program and are proceeding into another undergraduate program or a professional program must apply directly to the Student Awards Office by 01 June 2005.

Canada Millennium National In-course Excellence Awards

The Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation created this scholarship program to recognize students for community service, academic achievement, leadership, and innovation. These awards are available to students entering their third year of undergraduate studies in September 2005 who have achieved a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.3 on 80% (minimum) of a full normal course load.

The University of Alberta can nominate up to 31 students. The awards range in value from \$4,000 to \$10,000.

Application forms are available on the Student Awards website at www.registrar.ualberta.ca/awards

Jason Lang Scholarship

The Jason Lang Scholarships were created in honor of Jason Lang, a 17 year old Alberta high school student who was killed in a school shooting. These \$1,000 scholarships are designed to reward the outstanding academic achievement of Alberta postsecondary students who are continuing into their second, third, or fourth year of studies. Candidates are nominated by the Alberta institution where they completed their previous year of undergraduate studies. Students nominated by the University of Alberta will be notified in July.

Applicants must be Alberta residents and have completed at least 80% of a full normal course load (i.e. at least 24 units of course weight) in their previous year of studies (September to April).

Rhodes Scholarships

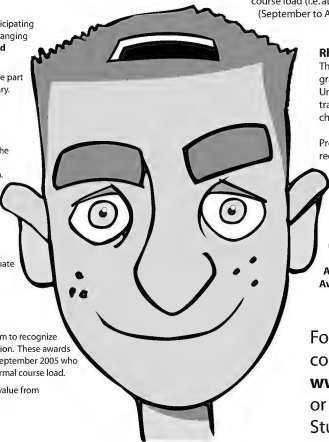
The Rhodes Scholarship Competition is open to undergraduate and graduate students in any Faculty. These scholarships are tenable at the University of Oxford in England and cover fees, board and lodging and travel expenses for two years of study. Scholars may follow their own choice of study and are required to attend Oxford in October 2006.

Proven intellectual and academic attainment of a high standard is required. Candidates must also show integrity of character, sympathy for and protection of the weak, the ability to lead, the energy to use their talents to the full, and participation in sports.

Candidates must be Canadian citizens or persons domiciled in Canada; have been born between October 2, 1980, and October 1, 1986; and have received an undergraduate degree before taking up the scholarship (except medical students).

Application forms will be available in August at the Student Awards Office, 1-80 SUB.

For more information on these and other competitions please visit our website at www.registrar.ualberta.ca/awards or the Student Awards Office at 1-80 Students' Union Building.



University curling championship set for Saville Centre this weekend

JAMES STORRIE
Sports Writer

University curling teams from across the country are converging on the Saville Sports Centre today like so many sliding, spinning stones, gathering for the fifth annual Canadian University Curling Championships.

Heavy snow and airline problems have not kept anyone away, though some teams have had travel plans disrupted by the weather and the jetset collapse. With all teams safely in town, campus recreation director and organizing committee chair Mike Chow was optimistic about the event, if a bit harried.

Aside from home-sketched advantage, Alberta's entries (skipped by Nicole Herzog on the women's side and Corey Reynolds on the men's) will have the edge of experience as they head into the bonspiel.

"One of our championship teams is returning, representing the University for a second year [in a row], while the other team, the women's team, is not, they lost in the playdown last year, but they represented the University in 2003," Chow explained.

Though the University of Alberta's men's and women's teams aren't recognized as Golden Bears or Pandas, the University itself has a vibrant cur-

ling following, something Chow is hoping will serve the school well in the championships.

"The profile of curling has really gone up, with Edmonton hosting the Brier and curling just becoming much more popular overall," said Chow.

In keeping with curling's increased popularity, it is not surprising that it has been selected as one of the official sports for the next CIS core sport cycle, 2006-12. The adjustment to CIS status, however, may be a bit awkward.

"Curling isn't of the traditional form, where the coach has the say, they're the boss, and you do what they tell you," Chow said with a grin. "Curling is basically a very individualized activity, where if you're the skip or the person who runs the team, you still control every other player; everything runs very democratically. Teams are not formed with tryouts; it relates more to chemistry."

This sort of self-managed approach may be difficult under the CIS structure, which Chow characterized as much more "big business." Hosting a large tournament like the Canadian University Curling Championships will be an excellent way for university curlers to get a taste of that level of competition, however; just as the teams are very self-managed, the University curling club members have been volunteering

to organize the larger parts of the event.

The first CIS curling championship is two years away, but in the meantime, Chow said, the various teams assembled for the tournament should offer a series of engaging and emotionally-charged games.

"There are quite a few intra-provincial rivalries," Chow explained. "Our teams will want to beat Lethbridge's, for example. Curling is a really tightly knit community; even as I was driving in the Manitoba women's team [Tuesday] morning, they were talking about the Winnipeg team, because they know so many people."

And in addition to those rivalries, said Chow, there will be the "dark horses," Waterloo and a combined Montréal/Concordia team.

"They're coming in but no one's seen them before; no one's courted against them before."

The championship will feature nine men's and seven women's teams—the Universities of Alberta, Regina, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Brandon, Waterloo and Lethbridge each sent two teams, while Winnipeg and Montréal/Concordia each sent a men's team. Draws will take place at 9am, 2pm and 8pm today and 7:30am, 11am and 4pm tomorrow and Saturday. Semifinals are scheduled for 11am Sunday with finals at 3pm.

UNBC professor cracks a curling mystery

Mark Shegelski explains the physics behind why rocks curl 'backwards'

BEJINDA LJ
Over the Edge

PRINCETON, N.J.—Most people take the basics of life for granted. They don't question why a light comes on, or why a curling rock can spin as it slides across the ice. However, University of Northern British Columbia physics professor Mark Shegelski is not the kind of person who takes simple things for granted.

"I'm the sort of person who is curious," replied Shegelski when asked why he conducted his groundbreaking research on the physics behind the properties of curling rocks.

In grad school, Shegelski learned how to golf and curl from one of his friends, and as a physicist, he was naturally inclined to figure out the physics behind the sports.

"I can usually understand things like the golf ball, but the curling, it's really strange. So being a curious person, I really wanted to figure out this problem," said Shegelski.

"One of the most interesting things is that if you take a cylinder like a glass with a heavy bottom and you turn it over so that it is heavy on top, it has a circular contact ring. When you spin it and slide it, it curls in the opposite way to a curling rock."

Shegelski explained that a glass that is spun clockwise curls to the left rather than to the right because a sliding

object has the tendency to tip forward and pushes down on the sliding surface more at the front than at the back.

Since the lateral motion of a clockwise-rotating glass at the front is to the right, the friction is in the opposite direction to the left. Friction increases proportionally with the amount of force, so the friction at the front is greater than friction at the back and causes the glass to curl to the left.

When Shegelski arrived at UNBC, he teamed up with Ross Niebergall, a math professor at the University, to generate an explanation for the problem. Shegelski worked on the theoretical physics while Niebergall performed the calculations.

The model that Shegelski made was a "simple possibility," hypothesizing that the curling rock has friction properties opposite to that of a drinking glass because it melts the ice it slides on.

"What I thought was [the ice] will melt more at the front than at the back because the force pushing down is more at the front, so there will be more melting and better lubrication. That will make the friction less at the front than at the back," said Shegelski.

After performing some calculations, he found that there was indeed enough energy in a sliding curling rock to melt the ice.

With the aid of the Prince George Curling Club and fellow UNBC physi-

cist Erik Jensen, Shegelski performed various experiments to test his theory after he wrote his first paper to explain his model.

"Most of the guys worked very hard for us," said Shegelski. "They scraped the whole sheet of ice and put down black bread and skinny red ribbons. So we had a grid-like checkerboard."

"Then we put a camera up on a mount. So we'd curl a rock, slide the camera down the ice and collected a bunch of data."

He found that the results of his experiment worked very well with his theory. After improving his model, he concluded that a thin liquid film resembling a soap bubble forms underneath a curling rock when it slides and causes it to curl in the direction that it is spun. Since the liquid film is so thin, it freezes as soon as the curling rock passes over and cannot be seen.

Shegelski realized that "a complete, totally satisfactory understanding would take more work. So there's still more to be done."

However, he is content enough with his explanations now to "go do some other work on other areas" since "the curling stuff has always been for fun."

Shegelski's most recent paper on curling rocks was co-authored by Jensen and was published in fall 2004 in the Canadian Journal of Physics.

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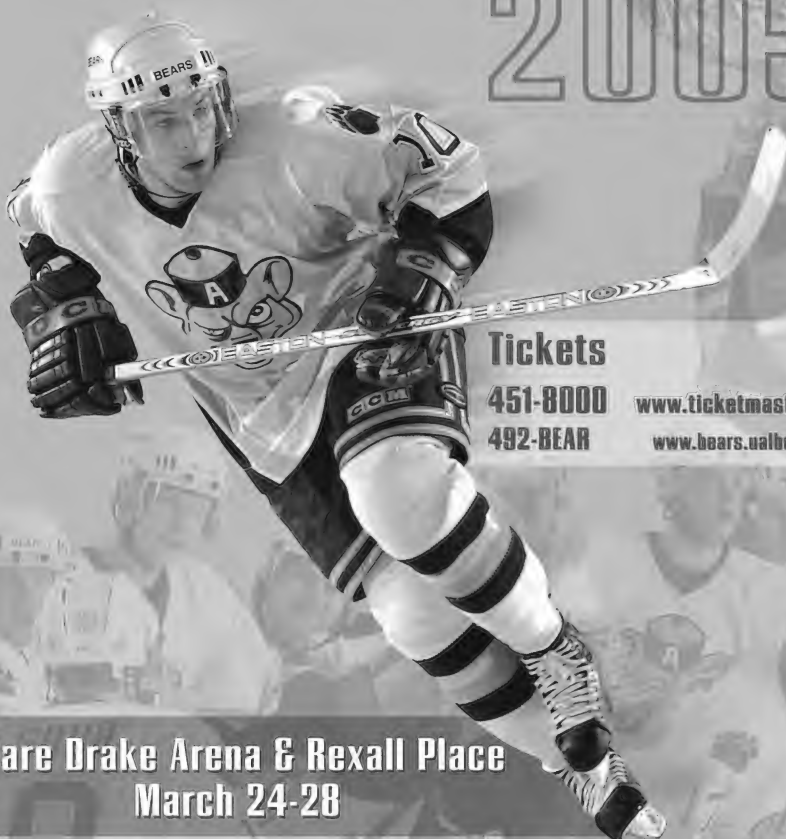
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MCCALLUM

Golden Bears play Friday, March 25th 7pm at Clare Drake Arena & Sunday, March 27th 6pm at Rexall Place. Gold Medal Game Monday, March 28th, 7pm at Rexall Place.

SOCIAL INTERCOURSE



David Wilcox
with guests
Red's
Friday, 25 March at 7pm

David Wilcox has been around.

Starting out as an Elvis-obsessed kid who barely knew how to play guitar, Wilcox spent years exercising his musical flair in bands like The Great Speckled Bird and The Teddybears.

Known for his rambunctious showmanship, undying passion for blues and roots and with a dozen records to his name, it's no wonder that Wilcox has been able to establish himself as one of Canada's top musicians. Homegrown talent and electrifying guitar, all packed into one venue; what could be better?

Midnight at the Oasis

Horowitz Theatre
Saturday, 26 March at 8pm

Established in 1998 by seasoned dance artist and teacher Anemone Ruder, Isis Dance Productions offers workshops in all aspects of Middle Eastern dance, not excluding the sexy moves of belly dancing.

In addition to instruction, each year Ruder produces *Midnight at the Oasis*, a recital featuring the talents of not only her students, but professional dancers as well.

The show is also an opportunity for the audience to experience Middle Eastern culture through Ruder's costumes, a collection of softly flowing, custom-made dance gowns. If you're looking to break your usual Saturday-night regimen, the Horowitz is your destination of choice this weekend.

As Astrea Falls

with The Suicide Boys
Eco City (9523 Jasper Avenue)
Sunday, 27 March at 6pm

When a Google search of "As Astrea Falls" and "The Suicide Boys" resulted in zero hits, I wasn't worried that I'd have nothing to report about this show. There may be no website info about these groups—though if you're looking for information about the evening's events, the featured bands hail from Edmonton, Calgary and exotic St. Albert—but all you really need to know is that this particular evening of Alberta punk and rock is happening above a tattoo parlour on Jasper Ave.

Not only can you listen to great local music; you can also top off your Sunday night partying with some body art.

ASIA SZKUDLAREK
Professor Google's

ALCB's not just a hip-hop Fubar

Tongue-in-cheek hip-hop group stars in new mockumentary, *Sub-G Nation*

ALCB

Sub-G Nation documentary viewing party
With DJ Tryptomene and Bebop Cortez
Sidetrack Café
Friday, 1 April at 8pm

IRIS TSE

Arts & Entertainment Writer

Wearing Ikea-made bling and singing outrageous songs about such suburban white-trash pursuits as hanging out in da' food court, local hip-hop group ALCB—and their audiences—get a laugh out of their twisted idea of da' hood.

Though sometimes accused as the unwelcome harbinger of crudely recorded '80s-style novelty rap, the members of ALCB—MC Krobar and E-wreckshun—take their music surprisingly seriously. That is, they're dead serious about mocking the suburban lifestyle; one rap, for example, features rhymes about cruising St. Albert in a van borrowed from one of their dads.

They're so committed to their unique brand of sarcasm that people often mistake their music for some rejected Beastie Boys demo. But with the unveiling of a new mockumentary, *Sub-G Nation*, starring the group, ALCB hopes that their brand of suburban rap will finally get the serious recognition it deserves.

The movie, created by amateur auteur Steve O'Johnahan for a film studies final project, tracks ALCB over the past year. From an alcohol-drenched party at the Underdog, to "selling" booze to underage kids from the trunk of the aforementioned dad-van, to "testimonials" from their producer, the movie sets out to break down all the definitions that people previously used to describe hip-hop.

"You can say 'hip hop' and people automatically make these assumptions. But we're totally opposite of what people think hip hop is because we're different. We grew up in a different hip-hop environment and we created a different hip-hop environment," says E-wreckshun proudly.

"We're not glamorizing any violence or shootings or inter-band feuds," says Krobar, taking an obvious jab at the recent "feud" between 50 Cent and The Game.

With tongue firmly planted in cheek,



NO SLEEP 'TIL MILLWOODS ALCB's E-Wreckshun represents for the Edmonton suburbs. FILE PHOTO: LEANNE FONG

O'Johnahan's movie may be reminiscent of another more famous Canadian mockumentary, *Fubar*. But according to O'Johnahan, *Sub-G Nation* is nothing like *Fubar*. "There's no death in our movie," says O'Johnahan. But he quickly turns serious as he explains the movie's goal.

"It's about dispelling the myth [of ALCB], really. I think up 'til now, people who'd come to the show hadn't seen them before, hadn't heard of them before, but had a great time. They know nothing about the band or the story. ... So this

will set them straight."

In addition, the band is also excited about the combination of the audio and visual components of the viewing party.

"This is the first time the suburban scene has ever come out. It also brings together music and the film, and I've never seen a show in Edmonton that has done that," says E-wreckshun.

"People like originality. This is a real, original thing on the rap side of things as well as film side of things."

The Faunts sayeth, if you record it, they will come

The Faunts

with Our Mercury, The Mark Birtles Project,
Eshod Ibn Wyzo, The Uncas, DJ Weez-L
and Sleeping Girl
Starlite Room
Saturday, 26 March at 7pm

JAMES CATERALL

Arts & Entertainment Writer

Early on, the Faunts figured out how to build a following: if you record a CD, they will come. The local group released its debut CD, *High Expectations/Low Results* before they even started gigging.

"Nobody knew we were a band until we had an album, which was kinda nice because in a sense we came on the scene as an established band," says drummer Paul Arnusch (brothers Steven and Tim Batke and Saviour Swanson fill out the group).

Like their laid-back, self-dubbed "post-rock" sound, the Faunts took it easy in the studio. "We just spent the year composing the album as we recorded it... we would go into the studio, hang out for a while, jam for a while, maybe record, like, one guitar track and that's it; there was no rush involved in recording," he says.

The chilled out and introspective nature of *High Expectations/Low Results* reflects the character of their lyricist, Steven Batke, says Arnusch. "He puts in a lot of time writing them; he's very meticulous about it," Arnusch laughs. "We



THREE OUT OF FOUR AIN'T BAD 75 per cent of the Faunts play dodgeball, ignore the camera. FILE PHOTO: PATRICK FINLEY

still don't know what he's saying."

The band is getting ready to share their lyrical confusion with a larger audience; they're about to be released on New York's Friendly Fire record label.

And the Faunts eagerly await better distribution—and production value.

"We're spending quality time in the studio with [local producer] Graham Lessard remixing some of the tracks, so the songs are going to sound quite different," says Arnusch.

But before their record's re-release, the Faunts are scheduled for a show Saturday at the Starlite Room—something the group's looking forward to considering their live music is entirely different from the CD experience.

How is it different? Well, there's a lot more sex appeal, jokes Arnusch, something which his bandmate Tim Batke emphasizes as important if you want to get the audience back every time. A good record and sex appeal: not a bad formula for a packed show.

No guesswork needed here: Kutcher and Mac are no match for Poitier and Tracey

Guess Who

Directed by Kevin Rodney Sullivan
Starring Ashton Kutcher, Bernie Mac,
Zoe Saldana and Judith Scott
Opens Friday, 25 March

YING-YING LEE
Arts & Entertainment Writer

As the lights dimmed at the screening of *Guess Who?*, I sat back and expected the worst. Because really, how far could the comedic antics of Ashton Kutcher, along with co-star Bernie Mac, carry this "remake" of 1967's *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*, a film that dabbled in issues surrounding interracial marriage. Considering the original starred such legends as Spencer Tracey, Sidney Poitier and Katharine Hepburn, Ashton and Mac don't have much of a leg to stand on when it comes to comparisons.

Which is why, to be fair, *Guess Who* should be taken for what it is: a cheesy slapstick comedy about a white boy, Simon Green (Kutcher), who wants to marry his black girlfriend, Theresa Jones (Zoe Saldana). When Theresa brings Simon home to celebrate her parents' wedding-day renewal, her father Perry (Mac) is no less than shocked at Simon's "pigmentally challenged" skin.

The young couple frets over Perry's attitude as Simon tries his hardest to win over his potential father-in-law. Quickly, a series of white lies, misunderstandings and awkward silences add fuel to the fire in Perry's burning glare.

Of course, no revolutionary statements are made, nor is there any political controversy. There are, how-



ever, plenty of scenes where Kutcher's trademark goofball persona shines through. There are also instances when you want to strangle the guy: no Simon, it's not a good idea to get caught wearing your girlfriend's lingerie in her father's house; no Simon, it's not a good idea to tell black jokes at the dinner table. You'd think poor Kutcher would have learned the dos and don'ts of getting along with his girlfriend's parents, considering this is the third film where he plays basically the same character (The other two would be *My Boss's Daughter* and *Just Married*).

But then Perry Jones' overbearing attitude is equally unbearable and stale (think Steve Martin in *Father of the Bride*).

But despite the abundance of pre-

dictable behaviour, the movie is not a total write-off. Surprisingly tender scenes are shared between Saldana and both Kutcher and Mac respectively as her character struggles to find balance between the happiness of herself, Simon and her father. And yes, whether you love him or hate him, Kutcher, along with his flawless bone structure, provokes a number of laugh-out-loud moments. Even Bernie Mac was able to stir up a chuckle or two in a scene where he inadvertently spoons Kutcher in an attempt to keep the guy away from his daughter at night.

As anyone will guess, *Guess Who* is not breaking any new ground. Kutcher haters beware, this is obviously not the film for you, but for all you romantic-comedy suckers, this may just be up your lane.

My Mother Likes Women: not that there's anything wrong with it

My Mother Likes Women

Directed by Ines Paris
and Daniela Fejerman
Starring Leonor Watling,
Rosa María Sarda and Silvia Abascal
Metro Cinema
25-26 March at 7pm

TONY SANTIN
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Imagine this: you're stuck in a dead-end job, your love life is a mess, and to top things off, your long-since-divorced mother has found a new love who also happens to be a woman.

This is what confronts Elvira (Leonor Watling) in *My Mother Likes Women*. As she and her sisters Sol (Silvia Abascal), a free-spirited pop musician, and Jimena (María Pujalte), a somewhat bitter woman who is unhappily married, attend the birthday celebration of their mother Sofia (Rosa María Sarda), they discover that mom has found a new love. The three eagerly wait to meet her new beau, only to find out that it's another woman, a classical pianist named Eliska from the Czech Republic—who also happens to be nearly half her age.

After the initial shock, Elvira discovers that in order for Sofia to keep Eliska in the country, she had to clean out her savings and sell off some of the family's land. When Elvira reveals this news to her sisters, they begin to hatch a plan to get rid of Eliska.

While the film begins with dramatic overtones, the mood is quickly lightened with plenty of very typically European situational comedy. For a topic that has proven to be as touchy here in Canada as gay relations, this movie actually manages to treat it

with humour. One such incident is when Sol invites the family to her latest concert. Their initial enthusiasm is replaced with horror when she plays her newest song, one about her mother's new sexuality.

As prominent as the issue of the mother's love interest is to the story, Elvira's trials and tribulations are the focus of the movie. Her regular visits to the psychiatrist are getting her nowhere. Her job is unfulfilling. She begins to question her sexual identity after her mother's startling revelation, which is only made worse when the plan to get Eliska out of the picture eventually involves one of the sisters attempting to seduce her away from their mother. Her attempts at love, centring on a novelist named Manuel, are chaotic at best. Although it drags in a few spots, Elvira's situation and how she will resolve it becomes more engrossing with each minute.

However, the film takes a major turn in the second. From closely following Elvira's plight, it ditches this side of the story to take up that of the mother's love again. Despite the fact that the sisters' plan works and Eliska is driven away from Sofia and back to the Czech Republic, the sisters, motivated by their saddened mother, seek to bring Eliska back during a trip to Prague. The previous storyline about Elvira is hurriedly resolved to get to, in the words of Wayne's World's Garth Algar, "the mega-happy ending."

It's a shame, then, that what could have been a great movie, with its humorous looks at sexual identity and self-potential, only ends as being "okay." While this film will no doubt be a joy to Europhiles everywhere, it will also leave others wanting more.



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Istvan features puppets who kill—pigs

The Unlikely Birth of Istvan

Performed by The Old Trout Puppet Workshop
Catalyst Theatre
Opens Wednesday, 30 March at 8pm

ELIZABETH VAIL
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Peter Balkwill, one of the co-creators of The Old Trout Puppet Workshop, wants to make one thing clear: he takes his puppets seriously. They aren't only for simple child's play.

Performing one of their first shows, *The Unlikely Birth of Istvan* at the Catalyst Theatre, he explains that his group, The Old Trout (formed with fellow members Steve Kenderees, Judd Palmer and Steve Pearce), is bent on performing sophisticated art, without falling into what he calls "the soft, fuzzy, foam element of children's theatre."

The Unlikely Birth of Istvan, which was also performed as part of One Yellow Rabbit's 2000/01 season, is, according to Balkwill, "really quite a metaphysical poem and it presents a story on a very basic level, which is quite childlike actually, but then has underlying implications and questions that are posed to the audience that are often lost on younger audiences."

"Puppets allow for immense spectacle and grand epic stories. And at the same time they reveal the simplistic emotion of watching a snowflake fall. You've got that entire gamut of possibilities."

PETER BALKWILL,
OLD TROUT PUPPET WORKSHOP

Centred on the deceptively simple plot of an argument between two men over the fate of a pig, the show itself contains nudity, a graphic depiction of birth and mature scenes that will likely disappoint, if not horrify, unsuspecting parents expecting to see a replica of the *Sesame Street* formula. Balkwill believes that one element that helped to shape *The Old Trout*, and thus *The Unlikely Birth of Istvan*,



is the rugged Albertan environment.

The Old Trout collective was born in a coal-heated shack in southern Alberta (one member of the group has a family ranch that they all went to as part of an artistic retreat) where the members put up with a harsh rural atmosphere that, while taxing them physically, also provided a worthy muse for their art.

"Spending a year on a strange, isolated ranch helped inform the way that the company works," Balkwill explains. "We're a collective, so we work by consensus. We make decisions as a group, and when you're trying to survive in a coal-heated shack through winters, eating out of one pot, it exercises those qualities ... where it's important for everybody to participate in the survival operation." When they weren't struggling with daily chores, the Old Trouts started

carving their puppets.

"We stick particularly to wood," Balkwill says. "We're traditionalists in the sense that the puppets need to be hand-carved. We don't use a lot of unnatural elements, and as a result, the puppets maintain their vibrancy through many years: they don't crack and deteriorate like foam and plastic might. And they make pleasing sounds when they knock into each other, and the joints squeak, and the audience can hear that."

With *The Unlikely Birth of Istvan*, The Old Trout's goal is to eventually assert the legitimacy of puppetry as an adult art form. "Puppets allow for immense spectacle and grand epic stories," Balkwill concludes. "And at the same time they reveal the simplistic emotion of watching a snowflake fall. You've got that entire gamut of possibilities."

Politic Live lives for giving back to the community

Politic Live

with *Razoff* Clippaz
and *Phreshly Squeezed*
New City Likwid Lounge
Thursday, 31 March at 9pm

BRETT LAMBERT
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Politic Live's got a reputation for giving back to the community—next Thursday they're headlining the E!lympia Annual PFC Jam (which raises funds for the Youth Emergency Shelter)—but that doesn't mean they can't enjoy top-40 styled stardom.

One day after their fundraiser show at New City, they're opening for the current darlings of rap, The Game (who, you may recall, just called a truce with 50 Cent).

And sharing a stage with top hip-hop acts isn't unfamiliar territory for Politic Live; they've opened for k-os, Snoop Dogg, 2 Live Crew and several others.

"Sometimes it's a little intimidating because you have to bring your A-game, y'know what I mean?" says

Bert "Dirt Gritte" Richards, referring to sharing the stage with these artists. "Everybody already knows The Game, Snoop Dogg, Maestro and so on. They're gonna bring their best show and we gotta bring our best show too. At the same time it's refreshing because we get a new crowd, new faces, people who wouldn't normally come to our shows. They get the privilege of seeing us at this big show. It's an honour to be the band called up to open for these big names because in the long run, hopefully we'll get to be one of those people."

This past year, Politic Live has been working towards creating such name recognition. Last summer, they filmed their first music video for "The Martine" at a Bel-Air pool. The clip premiered in December at the Winespear Centre and is already on rotation on MTV Canada, with the band's website urging fans to request the video. But Politic Live isn't too sure what the response has been.

"We can't see how well our video is doing because we don't have satellite," says Marlon "Arlo Maverick" Wilson.



"But a friend of mine who lives out in Regina was so trippin' because he said he saw the video five times in two days this last week. MTV Canada is a big thing, but since it's not on a regular cable network, the impact of the video hasn't really hit our following here in Edmonton." Maverick goes on to say that the group is ecstatic about the video and he figures that once it gets onto MuchMusic, it'll really have the chance to take off.

No matter what future successes may be in store for the group, Politic Live will always stay grounded through their dedication to supporting charitable causes such as Hip-Hop For

Hunger, the Edmonton Food Bank or several other organizations. To them, it's just their responsibility as part of the community.

"We all lived in the same home for the longest time," says Gritte. "In our music, we make mention of the fact that we lived in a one-bedroom apartment. All this living together builds that community strength. We want to do right by all these people."

Politic Live
with *The Game*
Red's
Friday, 1 April 1 at 7pm



The Blind Boys of Alabama

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www.blindboys.com

ADAM GAUMONT
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Perhaps inspired by the success of their recent collaboration with Ben Harper, *There Will Be a Light*, the Blind Boys have modernized their sound. Rapper Gift of Gab (of Blackalicious) makes a guest appearance on an R&B-inspired version of "Demons" by Fabby Slim and Macy Gray, and "Spirit in the Sky" is based on a country-rock guitar riff and is helped out by Los Lobos guitarist David Hidalgo.

But underneath this modern veneer lies the traditional core of the Blind Boys' music: Bible-belt-inspired a cappella church ballads.

Songs such as "Talk About Suffering" implore us to "keep talkin' 'bout Jejeeeeesus," while numbers like "Jesus Hits Like the Atom Bomb," "Faith and Grace" and "Presence of the Lord" are all fairly self-explanatory when it comes to their subject matter.

Despite their advanced age, the Boys are still able to lean hard on the old pipes. Aside from a few Grandpa Simpson-like moans, these septuagenarian crooners can sing circles around *American Idol* pretty boys.

So whether or not you're down with JC, give this album a listen. Its old-time charm and musical simplicity offers a warm and welcome contrast to just about everything else on the market right now.



Hidden in Plain View

Life in Dreaming
Drive-Thru Records
www.drivethrurecords.com

DANIEL KASZOR
Immortal Stallion King God-In-Waiting

Hidden in Plain View's debut album *Life in Dreaming* is modern corporate rock in its purest form.

Playing the type of music that we're supposed to call "punk," Hidden in Plain View rocks hard and fast using a patented brand of music designed in a boardroom and honed in a focus group for the immature musical tastes of 13-16-year-olds everywhere. Sounding much like Linkin Park circa two albums ago, the band isn't quite bad enough to be dismissed offhand; in fact, they do a more than adequate job of pounding out their manufactured, every-song-must-be-a-hit sound. It's just so perfect, so bland, and so unoriginal that it can't even be enjoyed on the dismissive level that most pop punk can be.

Maybe in an album or two, Hidden in Plain View can shake off its corporate feel and be a mildly dismissible pop-punk indulgence, instead of a rearguard of an already pre-processed sound.

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Beauty Shop's a cut above the rest

Beauty Shop

Directed by Billy Woodruff
Starring Queen Latifah,
Alicia Silverstone, Kevin Bacon
and Djimon Hounsou
Opens Wednesday, 30 March

STEVEN CLARK
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Getting your hair made over transforms you into a different person.

You feel like a million bucks, and you can't wait to show it off to your friends. They ooh and aah over your fab do until you notice the blonde dye job missed a patch of your auburn roots.

You don't mind going back and getting a touch up, though, because you hang out at the salon with your friends and discuss everything that makes you tick, or get ticked off. Welcome to *Beauty Shop*.

Situated in Atlanta, *Beauty Shop* follows Queen Latifah, reprising her *Barbershop 2* role as Gina Norris, a strong, open-minded yet opinionated mother with a knack for hair-styling. She's moved miles away from *Barbershop's* Chicago so her daughter can attend music school while she works in a high-end beauty salon.

After her talent and attitude clash with her authoritative employer Jorge Christophe (Kevin Bacon), Gina decides to quit and inspires the shampoo girl (Alicia Silverstone) to join her.

Fueled by a passion for hair, she burns a ransackable parlor, and fixes it up to be the shop of her dreams. Obstacles arise as she starts to attract patrons of her former employer, but an appealing piano-playing electrician (Djimon Hounsou), who lives above her shop, plus her crew of zany and creative stylists are ready to help her along the road to success.

If that sounds familiar, don't be sur-



prised. The only reason *Barbershop 3* is missing from the title is because the movie centres on women in a salon, not men at a barbershop.

The film succeeds in being a comedic and charming portrayal of life in the ghetto, and the friendly atmosphere that accompanies the society. Yet, like a perm that hasn't properly set, it falls flat in a few places.

With a dozen supporting roles, some characters receive minimal development while others receive too much screen time.

This may be due to director Billy Woodruff, who's done music videos for much of his career and is still figuring out how to put together a feature-length project. Jarringly, more time is devoted to Gina's relationship with her sister-in-law than with her own daughter.

It's all entertaining, though. Sass,

wit, and attitude complement all the stylists of Gina's salon in varying degrees, but little time is spent exploring any depth of their characters, almost implying that there isn't much to tell.

And there are plenty of unanswered elements: Who are the vandals who ransack Gina's shop? How did the shop get rebuilt overnight? Who are the kind souls who restore it? The only explanation to the ordeal is Silverstone's line: "The point is we're here, Gina. The shop is here. We're with you." Say what?

Thankfully, this movie didn't turn out wild, frizzy and tangled, yet it just seems like it needs more. But then, if the *Barbershop* shampoo-bottle movie-making philosophy of "lather, rinse, repeat," can be counted on, we can likely count on a sequel to straighten out *Beauty Shop's* knots.

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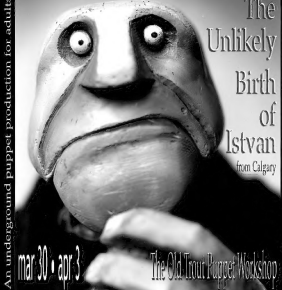
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Overkill

Relix IV
Spitfire Records
www.reckingcraw.com

GEOFF CLARKE
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Thrash-metal journeymen Overkill have been cranking out records for over 20 years.

While they once drew comparisons to bands like Metallica, Overkill's refusal to diversify has seen them fall into obscurity. *Relix IV* finds Overkill descending even further into irrelevance, and the result is pretty embarrassing.

For the most part, *Overkill's* metal gets the job done. A few good riffs pop up here and there, as does the occasional bout of pummelling drum-

ming. The embarrassingly solemn, irony-free vocals are what really push *Overkill* into self-parody.

While it's noble to see these guys staying true to their vision of metal, 20 years worth of the same ol' shred isn't going to elicit too much excitement outside of the already faithful. Sure, they can still thrash, but metal has changed since 1984; these guys haven't. Like a middle-aged head-banger who won't let impending baldness prevent him from trying to rock the long hair, *Relix IV* simultaneously elicits a mixture of pity and contempt.



Amanda Stott

Chasing the Sky
EMI
www.amandastott.com

ELIZABETH VAIL
Arts & Entertainment Writer

With pop music today, there seems less of a need for artists to actually perform and more of a demand for whatever the producers can churn out as fast as they possibly can. As a result, we have slender, reed-like voices electronically processed to glossy, artificial perfection, securely nestled in a web of hooks, beats and synths. "Pay no attention to the woman at the microphone!" each CD seems to say. "Just dance to the beat!"

So, in this age when even Stephen

Hawking could probably release a successful single if he had the inclination (www.mchawking.com), it's a relief to listen to an album where the prime focus is the artist's genuinely pleasing voice. Amanda Stott—a winsome lass who infuses her power ballads with a healthy dose of country twang—is just the type of sugar needed to help the medicine go down. Although the lyrics to her stable of solid tunes are disappointing school-girl diary poetry, in the end, they don't really matter, because they're not what we should really be listening to, anyway. All you need is her strong, sweet voice.



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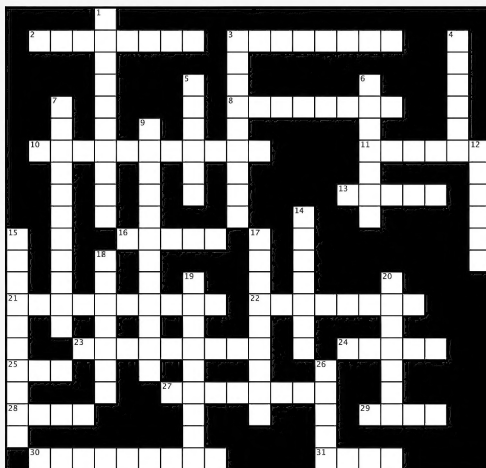


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CROSSWORD

The **Brandword**: compiled by Scott C Bourgeois. The Crossword runs every Thursday with answers in the following Tuesday issue. This one is hard. Seriously.



Across

2. Run for the border.
3. The pause that refreshes.
8. Once you pop, you just can't stop.
10. Plop, plop, fizz, fizz, oh what a relief it is.
11. Where's the beef?
13. It takes a licking and keeps on ticking.
16. Look, Ma, no cavities!
21. Ho, Ho, Ho.
22. The Breakfast of Champions.
23. The San Francisco treat.
24. A child is an island of curiosity sur-

rounded by a sea of question marks.

25. Finger-licking good.
27. The best a man can get.
28. Just do it.
29. Put a Tiger in your tank.
30. Nothing says loving, like something from the oven.
31. We try harder.

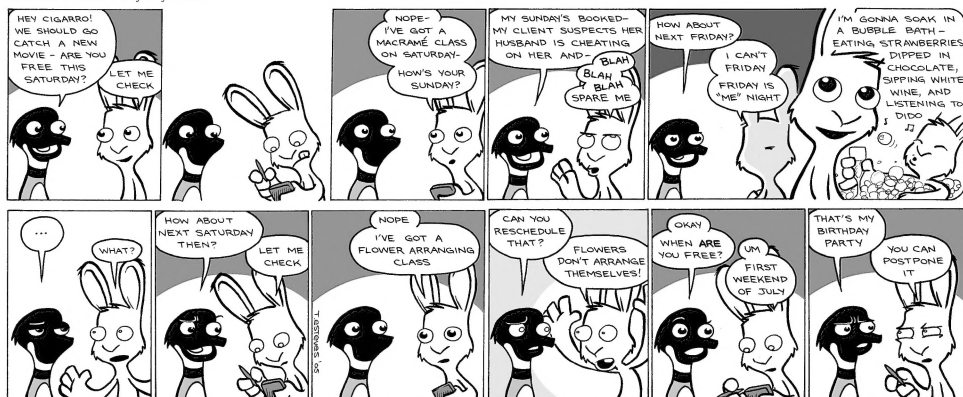
Down

1. While in Europe, pick up an ugly European.
3. Mm, mm, good.
4. The quicker picker-upper.
5. Our repairmen are the loneliest

guys in town.

6. Tastes so good cats ask for it by name.
7. Let your fingers do the walking.
9. All the news that's fit to print.
12. Obey your thirst.
14. Good to the last drop.
15. Have it your way.
17. The King of Beers.
18. We are driving excitement.
19. It keeps going, and going, and going...
20. Diamonds are forever.
26. You'll love the way we fly.

CIGARRO & CERVEJA by Tony Esteves



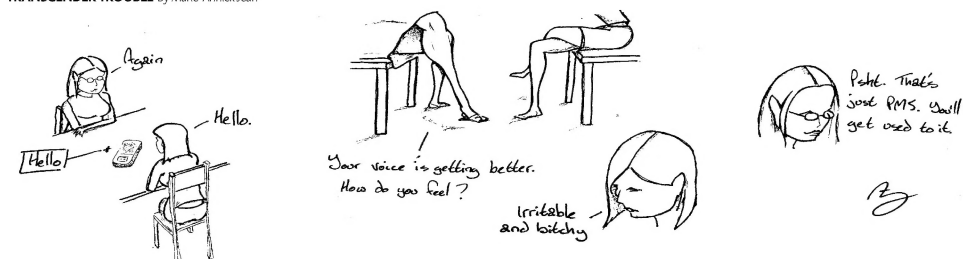
TIME-TRAVELLING GRAD STUDENT by Mike Winters



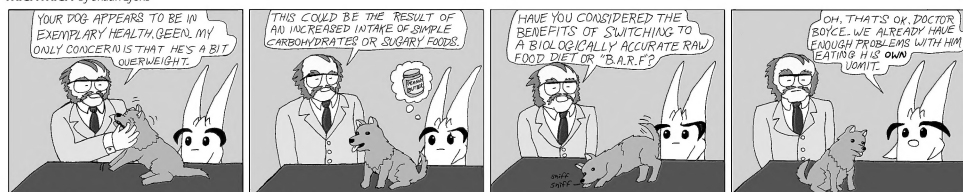
HALZY'S COMIX by Mike Robertson



TRANSGENDER TROUBLE by Marie-Annick Jean



MICH MICH by Shaun Lyons



"In the eyes of the law... the slave is not a person."

Virginia Supreme Court decision, 1858

"An Indian is not a person within the meaning of the
Constitution."

George Canfield

American Law Review, 1881

"The statutory word 'person' did not in these
circumstances include women."

British Voting Rights case, 1909

"The Reichsgericht itself refused to recognize Jews... as
'persons' in the legal sense."

German Supreme Court decision, 1936

“ The law of Canada does not
recognize the unborn child as a
legal person possessing rights. ”

Canadian Supreme Court

Winnipeg Child and Family Services Case, 1997

**Sometimes the most important
lessons take the longest to learn.**